LH5
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Voyeurism at UVic

page two

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page twenty

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MARTLET

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pages twelve and thirteen

AARON MCMILLAN ILLUSTRATION, WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO SUNG EUN

Voyeurism at UVic

Female students secretly photographed; pictures posted online

by Sean Patrick Sullivan & Megan Stewart

Campus Security has known for at least two weeks about a website showing candid photos of women secretly photographed at UVic but has not alerted students, *the Martlet* has learned.

PeepingThong.com shows women in recognizable UVic locations such as Felicita's, the University Centre, campus benches, the Petch fountain and study tables and cubicles in the library. The pictures are taken from behind with a digital camera, and in most photos the woman's thong underwear is exposed.

Campus Security Services (CSS) is aware of the website, but refused to comment, instead directing *the Martlet* to UVic Communications.

"[Campus Security is] continuing to investigate it, but as of right now they have no grounds to prosecute it," said communications officer Patty Pitts. "I guess people have to be aware that their privacy can be intruded upon much easier these days with little cameras and cameras in phones."

Since the pictures are taken in a public area, it is not an invasion of privacy issue, said Carlos Martins, lawyer for Canadian University Press.

"If they could trace it back to a UVic person and find that it's in contravention of the [university harassment] policy, then you've got some grounds to go on," said Pitts.

The name and address of the Victoria man who registered the website is publicly available through a Whois internet search, but CSS has been unable to link the record to a student.

Director of Student Services David Clode confirmed that security contacted him with the information two weeks ago.

"If we could track the origin of the website to a UVic server or UVic equipment, we could do something," said Clode. "We've had these issues before, when people have had less-than-wonderful websites living on UVic servers, and we've taken steps to shut them down."

Marlene Russo is the acting director of the university's human rights office, which administers the harassment policy. She was unaware of the website before *the Martlet* approached her, and says she hasn't yet received any complaints from students.

Individuals who feel they have been harassed or discriminated against are encouraged to seek confidential advice and information from the human rights office. "We're trying to maintain the campus as a safe place for students, and if people aren't feeling safe, that would be something of concern," she said.

Most recently updated this week, the dates on the photos range as far back as September 2003.

"Hunting season is open: Seek T-bars within..." reads the caption for one of the four photo albums. That album, which houses 80 photos, has been viewed more than 2,000 times since September 2003.

Visitors are encouraged to rate each picture—labeled "t-bar victims"—with ratings including "Um . . . [be right back]," "I wouldn't hesitate" and "Macdonald's" [sic].

"I would call this sexual assault and voyeurism," said Caitlin Warbeck, the outreach coordinator for the UVSS Women's Centre. "These aren't posed, meaning these women didn't know they were being photographed."

She thinks that the university community should be told that this is happening, especially since the site is being viewed on a regular basis.

"There's a lot of factors in here that could let this girl know that it's her, or let other people [who] know her know that it's her," continued Warbeck.

Warbeck said the Women's Centre will be starting an awareness campaign.

"It's just shocking to see that someone would do it because it is such a breach of personal space and boundaries," added Sarah Salbati, a third-year student.

The website contains no advertising, contact information, registration process, or links, excluding one to the online photo printing service Shutterfly. Through the link to Shutterfly, users can order wallet to poster-size prints of the thong photos.

It is possible to see when each picture was added to the site and what kind of digital camera was used to take the photo. At least five digital cameras, including several Canons and a Nikon, have been used for PeepingThong.com.

IMAGE PROVIDED

A website shows women at UVic with their thong underwear unknowingly exposed.

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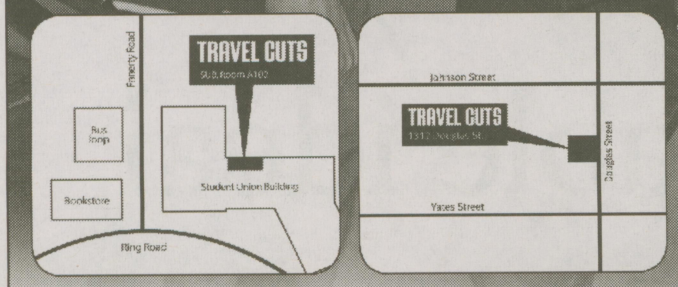

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Students to vote on UVSS pro-choice policy

UVic undergrads decide what is more important: a woman's reproductive right or a student's right to be represented by the university's students' society

by Megan Stewart

A campus club that stands "for the right to life for all of humanity" is hoping to change the students' society's policies on abortion at next week's semi-annual general meeting.

Members of Youth Protecting Youth (YPY) are endorsing a motion that seeks to amend the current pro-choice stance of the University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS) to a neutral, non-aligned standpoint. The motion also resolves to repeal the Society's open opposition to any law that would criminalize abortion.

The vice-president of YPY says the debate is less about a woman's right to an abortion and more about the UVSS taking a stance on an issue that may exclude members of the Society.

"The conflict doesn't really make much sense," said Del Myers. "The problem here is that there are members forced into association with UVSS policies that they consider morally objectionable."

Since 1989, the UVSS Issues Policy on gender has clearly outlined the society's support for 10 basic rights, two of which members of YPY now want to strike from the books. The contested stipulations are: "The Society supports freedom of choice in the matter of abortion" and "The Society supports the fundamental right of all women to control their bodies."

The motion, tabled in November 2004, argues that the two contested policies "introduce a pro-abortion language" that implies all students support abortion. The motion reads that the Society's pro-choice policies "marginalize a great number of the Society's members who cannot support abortion as a matter of conscience or religious faith."

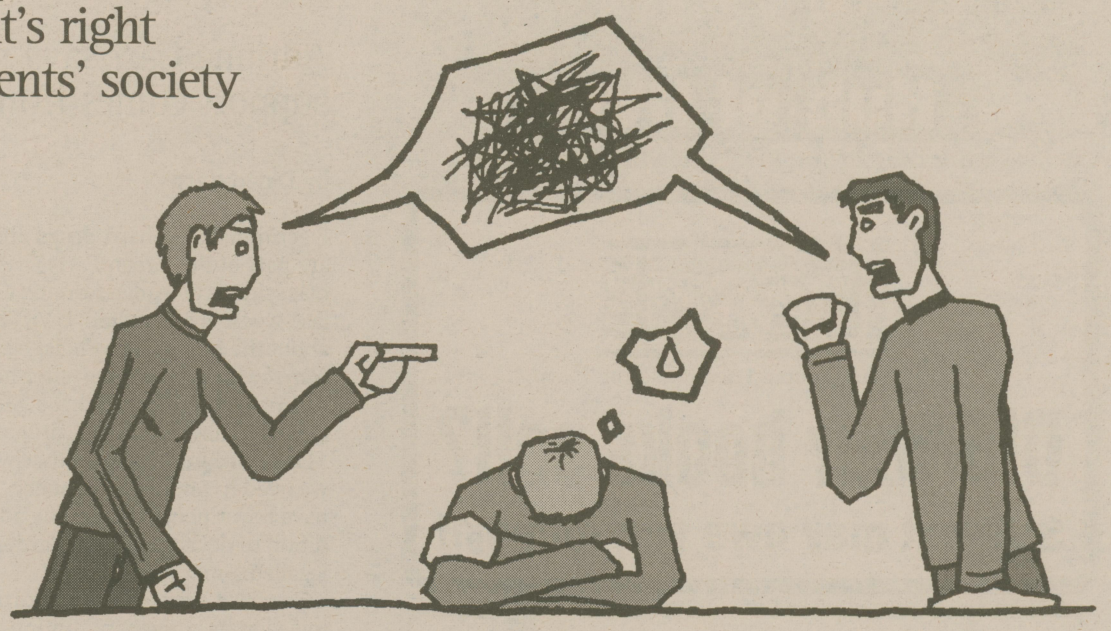
Members of YPY also want to repeal Gender Policy #2 where the Society states its opposition to any legal restrictions to getting a safe abortion. According to the motion, this policy stifles free speech and could eventually set a "poor example" in the future, since it "indiscriminately opposes law on a contentious issue which deserves open dialogue."

In defence of the status quo, Students Protecting Choice (SPC) is campaigning against any attempt to alter the society's pro-choice stance towards abortion.

SPC, an affiliate of the Women's Centre, calls itself a "network of pro-choice students at UVic." The awareness campaign was created specifically in response to the motions put forward by YPY members and is amassing as many people as possible to attend the SAGM since all undergrads, not just board members, are eligible to vote on motions.

SPC thinks that most people reject the position that abortion is morally wrong and feel that forcing a woman to have a child against her will is the true moral culprit. SPC is hosting a panel discussion on the importance of a woman's right to reproductive choice prior to the SAGM.

Spokesperson for SPC Danielle Edwards says abortion is such a basic right that it is no longer a topic for discussion. "There are some things you just don't debate because they are human rights," she said.



GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

In November 1999, YPY was temporarily stripped of its club status after the group distributed material that the board considered "anti-choice." According to SUB general manager Marne Jensen, the Society's pro-choice status does not prevent YPY from club status or from bringing speakers to campus.

Edwards thinks that one of the main reasons YPY wants the UVSS to adopt a neutral stance towards abortion is to bring the Genocide Awareness Project (GAP) to UVic. YPY says it has no intention of bringing the campaign to campus.

Already banned from several Canadian universities, the U.S.-based GAP has received strong criticism from campuses across the country for showing graphic images of aborted fetuses and for comparing abortion to mass slaughter akin to the Holocaust.

GAP has never been sponsored at UVic.

In October 2003, Katherine Brach of YPY told *the Martlet* that pro-lifers are not easy to pigeonhole. Arguing that she could be a pro-lifer and a feminist, Brach said both positions share important tenets.

"The three principles of feminism that speak most strongly to me are non-discrimination, non-violence and justice for all. Abortion violates all three. For me being feminist and being pro-life is to respect and love all life," she said.

The Student Christian Movement (SCM), a social-justice group that has taken a pro-choice stance, finds fault in YPY's intent and message. In a letter to *the Martlet* that ran Jan. 27, two SCM members wrote that they were standing up for a woman's right to choose, despite having pro-life beliefs.

SCM also sent a letter outlining their views to YPY.

Agata Lis, UVSS director of finance, is torn on the issue and has not yet decided if she will vote for or against the motion. While she considers herself a "strong supporter" of women's rights, Lis also wants to protect a student's right to showcase his or her personal views on campus. She believes the anti-choice policy is hypocritical and that it marginalizes some students who still pay student fees.

"That's why I'm torn. I'm a strong advocate of women's rights, but I also support the right of students to express their opinions."

Edwards doesn't think the student body will support either motion. "There is no chance it will be passed," she said. "A woman's right to [her] autonomy cannot be contested."

The UVSS semi-annual general meeting begins at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 10 in Cinecenta.

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Green Party leader advocates tuition fee reduction

Adriane Carr says most Green support comes from youth vote

by David Karp

Decriminalizing hard drugs and reducing tuition fees are part of the Green Party's vision for British Columbia, said party leader Adriane Carr at a campaign stop last week. Carr visited UVic to speak to supporters about the May 17 provincial election. She met with *the Martlet* for an interview after her speech.

Carr, who co-founded the BC Green Party in 1983, claims decriminalizing drugs will solve problems. "These are health issues that we're talking about, and we need to find ways to manage those issues so that we have fewer people becoming addicted," she said. In addition to decriminalizing harder drugs, Carr advocates legalizing marijuana.

Carr also stressed the importance of education, saying that a university tuition freeze would not be enough. The Green leader wants a system modelled after Mexico or Costa Rica, where tuition is free. "That's where we ought to get to," she said, but noted that the government may not be able to afford free tuition in the short run.

The Green Party is not just about the environment, she said. Carr claims that the reason many people don't vote Green is because they don't know much about the Green Party. Carr believes in balanced budgets and wants to tear up the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). She also supports an approach to health care that focuses on prevention and alternative treatments in order to reduce the pressures on hospitals.

The Greens are at 12 per cent in the latest Ipsos-Reid poll, with the Liberals and NDP neck and neck at 41 and 43 per cent respectively. Thus, it is possible that the Greens will hold the balance of power in the next legislature, meaning they can influence which party forms government.

Carr hinted she might be willing to form a coalition with the NDP in a minority government situation, saying, "I would be quite interested in having [NDP leader] Carole James talk to me." She was more reluctant about supporting a Liberal government, but didn't rule out the possibility.

"That's a tricky question," Carr admitted. "I'd have to talk about that within our party." Carr added that she has met with Gordon Campbell and Carole James to discuss common goals.

The 52-year-old leader claims her party has already influenced B.C. politics by bringing environmental issues to the forefront. Carr believes that the Green Party's 12 per cent of the vote in the last election has made the Liberals and NDP fight to win over Green supporters. "If voters abandon the Green Party, every other party will abandon Green issues," Carr warned, urging her supporters not to jump ship.

In the 2001 election, many blamed the Greens for the NDP only winning two seats, accusing the Greens of "vote splitting." Carr sees it differently. "I think it's sad that they don't recognize that they lost the vote," she said, adding that much of the Green Party's support is from people who would normally vote for the Liberals.

Lately, the Green leader has had her ups and downs. Her party has been strong on Vancouver Island since the last election, reaching as high as 31 per cent in the polls. However, on the mainland, Carr has struggled. She ran in the Surrey-Panorama Ridge by-election in October, where she received only eight per cent of the vote.

DAVID KARP PHOTO

Green Party leader Adriane Carr might be willing to form a minority government with the NDP and, reluctantly, with the Liberals.

Afterwards, Carr accused Surrey voters of racism. "There were people at the door who were talking about voting in camps, that if the NDP candidate was Indo-Canadian, they didn't want to see an Indo-Canadian, and they were going to vote anti-that and vice-versa. Racism is a problem in Surrey," she said.

Jagrup Brar, the NDP candidate who won the by-election, disagreed. "The comment that there was racism is an insult to the people of Surrey-Panorama Ridge," said Brar. "[The constituents] are well aware of the issues in this province, and they made up their minds based on what is going on in this province."

The Green leader also acknowledged her support amongst youth, saying that they were the strongest age group among Green voters. "There is power in your vote," she reminded supporters at UVic. Carr claimed that 30 per cent of Green supporters are people who would otherwise not vote at all.

Also on the May 17 ballot will be a referendum on a single transferable vote system. The Greens have decided not to take a stance on the issue, although Carr was "very disappointed" with the system chosen by the Citizens' Assembly. She had been a strong activist for a mixed-member proportional representation system.

Carr has put forth many ideas but has avoided making clear commitments. She wouldn't say when the Greens would release their platform, nor would she say what issues she would focus on in the election.

Mehdi Najari, who ran for the NDP leadership against Carole James, attended Carr's speech at UVic. Najari said he doesn't like the direction the NDP is heading right now. He wanted to see where Carr stood on certain issues but says he has no plan to switch parties.

"If you are a member of a party, that doesn't mean you have to support a leader that's misguided," Najari said, referring to his disapproval of NDP leader Carole James.

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Rocking the youth vote in B.C.

by Erika Van Winden

Not voting in this year's election? You wouldn't be the only one.

Canadians between 18 and 34 have been known for their lack of participation in electoral votes—only 34 per cent of eligible voters between 18 and 34 cast a ballot in the last provincial election. With the next election slated for May 17, the declining youth vote will once again arise as a major issue for British Columbia.

One solution is non-partisan voting projects aimed at getting young adults voting. With the provincial election just over three months away, the gears are already in motion.

"Rock the Vote BC" and "Get Your Vote On" have been established to not only encourage a larger voting turnout among youth but to encourage registration as well.

The goal of Get Your Vote On (GYVO) is to "focus on registering 10,000 new voters for the provincial election on May 17, as well as ensuring that the ideas of young British Columbians [are] heard during the election process," said campaign manager Olive Dempsey.

GVYO has already registered over 1,000 voters for the May 17 election. The group plans to help people register and organize within their own communities.

To reach potential voters, GYVO is using a number of methods, including concerts and a text messaging voter network. The text messaging and online network will be used to survey young voters. The group plans to tally the results and send them to politicians, the media and the public.

"This network is not just about getting youth to vote," said GYVO Outreach Co-ordinator Johanna Mazur in a press release. "It's about making our perspectives part of political debate."

The Rock the Vote BC campaign, sponsored in part by the Canadian Federation of Students and the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC, is using similar tactics to catch the attention of young voters. A Rock the Vote tour is in the works, with stops planned across the province.

UVic's students' society is involved in the Rock the Vote BC campaign for one reason: "If students don't get out and vote, then politicians will never care about our issues," said UVSS chairperson Joanna Groves in an e-mail interview. "If students want to have their voices heard regarding rising tuition fees and the elimination of the grants program, then they need to use the most powerful tool they have—their vote."

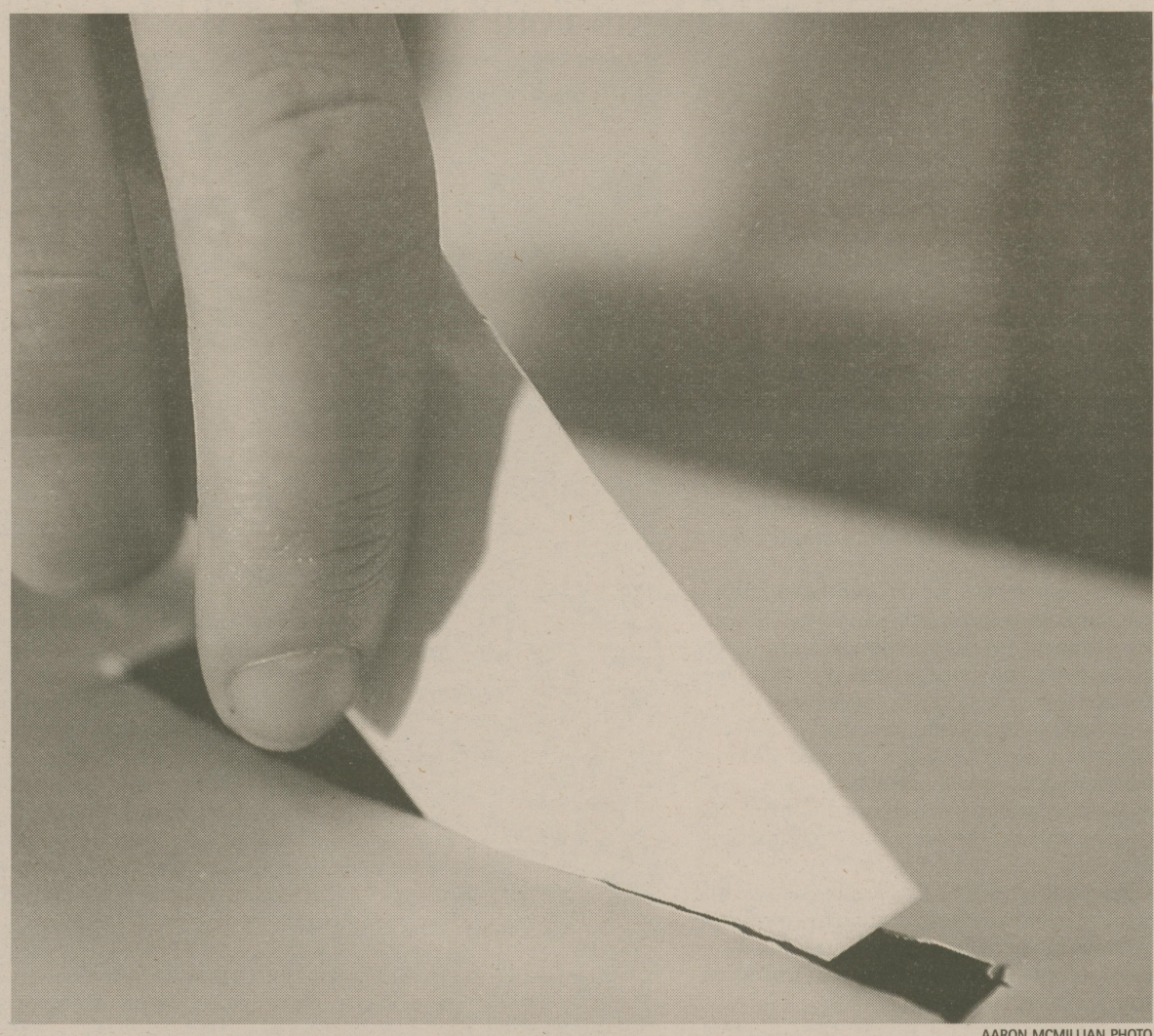
In addition to sponsoring musical events, both GYVO and Rock the Vote BC provide information about issues, candidates and voter registration.

Similar projects in the United States have been successful. The most recognized vote project to hit the media is likely MTV's Rock the Vote, where the popular music television company challenged young Americans to cast 20 millions votes in the November 2004 election.

According to the analysis of exit polls done by *CBC News*, 21 million young Americans voted in the past election. There was a 10 per cent increase in the number of Americans under the age of 30 who voted in 2004 compared to 2000—the highest voting turnout America has seen in over a decade.

For those Canadians who choose not to vote, the question must be asked—why not?

Voting groups such as GYVO and Rock the Vote BC suggest that it's because there has not been a system established to direct youth into the engagement of voting on a provincial level.



AARON MCMILLIAN PHOTO

Electoral campaigns like " Rock the Vote BC" and " Get Your Vote On" are courting the youth vote as the province heads to the polls on May 17.

GVYO says on its website that youth feel they are unable to have an impact with their vote because they do not see changes happening in their government, nor do they see their values reflected in the establishment of power.

"In general it may be related to a shared cynicism about politicians and political parties because of local and world events," said Prof. Norman Ruff, an associate professor in UVic's department of political science.

Ruff also cites "a loss of confidence that public policy can make a difference" for a falling youth voter turnout. This lack of confidence in the system to make effective changes leads some youth to seek change in other ways. "To some extent youth political activism gets directed away from electoral politics into social movement agitation and protest," he added.

When asked whether they were voting or not in May, the responses of students varied.

"I'm going to the poll booths this year because why wouldn't I?" said first-year student Jessica Stewart. "People who complain about their government should get out there and vote so that the government party they want to win does."

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Montreal graffiti artist faces 53 counts of vandalism

If found guilty, Peter Gibson could be fined and banned from the city

by Sarah Colgrove, *the McGill Daily*

MONTRÉAL (CUP) — The man who brought Montreal barbed-wire crosswalks and zippered expressways may face expulsion from the city March 29.

Peter Gibson, alias Roadsworth, is the artist behind the proliferation of stencilled graffiti that adorns the traffic lines and sidewalks in downtown Montreal.

On Nov. 29, Gibson was arrested during the pre-dawn stencil-and-spray-paint routine he had been following for three years. He is now being charged with 53 counts of vandalism.

When he was arrested, Gibson was informed that the last serial vandal in the area had been fined $50,000 and banished from Montreal for five years.

But the previous vandal had been cutting his name into storefront windows. Gibson's work consists entirely of simple images, like owls, vines and bullets, stencilled on pavement.

Richard Cote, political attaché for city councillor Helen Fotopoulos, said he does not believe the charges will be so dire.

"It's rare that you are charged in front of a judge for doing the same thing 53 times," he said.

But some feel that since Gibson's work is widely acknowledged as an art project, the charges of vandalism are not accurate. Even Cote, on the side of the prosecution, agrees that Gibson's work is art.

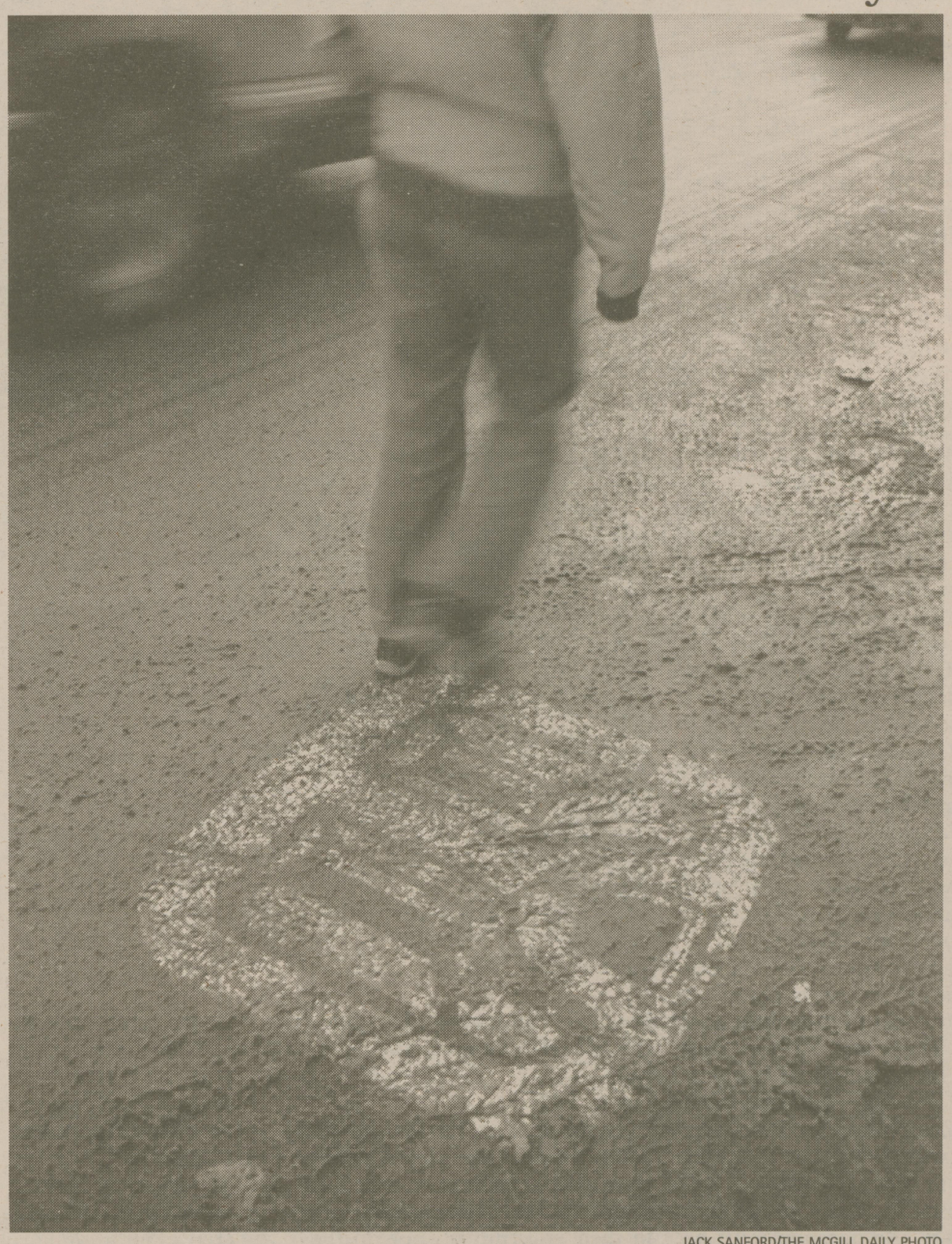
"I consider it art . . . it's creative, different, innovative, and it makes people smile," said Cote. "That's not aggressive."

Chris Hand, also known as Zeke of Zeke's Gallery, an alternative art space on St-Laurent, said Gibson's work transcends what is meant by "graffiti" and should not be treated as vandalism at all.

"It's not like tagging. It doesn't even come close," he said.

"Do you want to live in a city where they charge artists? This isn't 1950s Russia. We're not a fascist state where we subdue freedom of expression."

But Marc Mayer, director of the Musée d'Art Contemporain, said that graffiti's artistic merit should not grant it any sort of impunity under the law.



JACK SANFORD/THE MCGILL DAILY PHOTO

The last serial vandal, or grafitti artist, was fined $50,000 and banished from Montreal for five years.

"It's not a question of freedom of expression," he said. "You break the law, you get a fine. If you deface public property, you have to pay for it."

The public seems to disagree. Hand began a web-based Free Roadsworth campaign almost immediately after the artist's arrest, urging people to write to the mayor and city councillors. He said the response has been phenomenal.

"I have yet to run into anyone who doesn't adore and love his artwork," he said. "Peter never expected there would be this sort of reaction. I think it shows his art has touched a lot of people."

The story raises a debate over where to draw the line between public art and vandalism, a question that worries Mayer.

"This is art," he said, "but why not all the other tagging we see everywhere? You can call anything art."

Cote agrees.

"This has to be about what we allow individuals to do to public property," he said. "For [Roadsworth], it's cute, nice, not aggressive. But the next one could do something racist or sexist."

Cote expressed disappointment that Gibson had not approached the Plateau community and obtained official permission for his project.

"The Plateau is artistic and open to accommodate artists. But we need a process. We need limits on what can be done and where."

Hand, however, was skeptical about the idea of pursuing a graffiti permit.

"I have no idea where to go," he said. "The individual artist is locked out of the process because when you want to regulate it you turn into a society of bureaucrats, where public art is set up by large organizations.

"If they want to have a booth next to where you buy bus tickets that sells public art permits, then it would work."

Cote maintained that safety concerns outweigh the inconveniences of bureaucratic red tape.

He said that some of Gibson's markings on crosswalks could be considered dangerous to pedestrians with bad eyesight, noting that one stencil connects dotted traffic lines to an electro-pulse image.

"You can't change the colour of a stop sign," he said. "The city is asked to make sure that signs to cross the street are decided by the Quebec transport ministry, and it's up to the city to keep us safe."

Hand vehemently disagrees with the claim that Gibson's work is unsafe, pointing to London as an example of an equally safe city for drivers, with heavily graffitied streets.

"They aren't dangerous at all. Not even close," he said.

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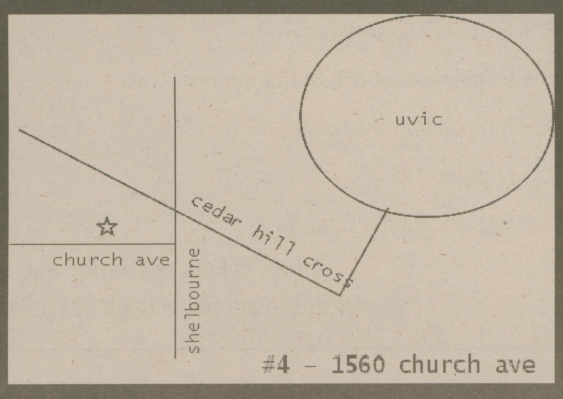

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NEWS BRIEFS

Resourceful Victoria teens

Saanich police issued a warning to parents of teenagers last week as, according to one officer, "kids are being a little bit more resourceful."

Police say they found large groups of teens drinking, fighting and using drugs at parties in community centres on Jan. 14 and 21. Two teens were hospitalized and one 16-year-old girl was arrested for assaulting a police officer at the Jan. 14 party.

In one case, the hall had apparently been rented to a parent of one the teens, but there was little or no adult supervision. In the second incident, the centre was rented to a 20-year-old for a birthday party that attracted nearly 200 youth, say police.

—M.S.

Bloodshed and Iraqi elections

As Iraqis went to the polls Jan. 30 for the first time in over 50 years, suicide bombers staged one of the largest attacks in four months and killed at least 44 Iraqi civilians at voting stations.

Voters were subjected to as many as six body searches before they reached the ballot box, but according to the Iraqi Electorate Commission, about 60 per cent of the population cast a ballot. Voting thinned out in Sunni parts of Baghdad where loyalty to Iraq's ejected tyrant remains strong.

The transitional 275-seat assembly will be created when results are released sometime in the coming week.

—F.W.

French poodle used as weapon

A Michigan man is in psychiatric care this month for, among other things, swinging his dog at a police officer.

According to police, Girolama Marinello, 37, was arrested in February 2004 after he ran a red light, rammed his truck into police cruisers and then defended himself by swinging a two-kilogram poodle at the officers.

Marinello was charged with assault with the intent to do great bodily harm less than murder, resisting and obstructing police, and animal cruelty.

Although scheduled to stand trial last month, a lawyer argued Marinello was too mentally ill to understand the trial. If convicted, he could face up to 10 years in jail.

The poodle was unharmed and has since been adopted.

—M.S.

Students support tsunami relief

Proceeds from student-organized garage sale destined for Indonesia and Thailand

by Megan Stewart

The ease of laughter and generous hospitality struck Joe Akerman more than the abject poverty and crowded city streets he saw in Southeast Asia.

Travelling through Indonesia and Thailand in late 2003, Akerman said he was humbled by his hosts' simple lifestyle. When he got wind of the earthquake and consequent tsunamis, he felt compelled to help.

A class assignment from a physical education class dealing with health and wellness was the catalyst Akerman needed, and with three group partners he's organizing a massive garage sale in effort to fundraise for tsunami relief.

"It's not easy for me to donate a large sum of money," said Akerman. "But it's easy for people to get rid of things they don't want or need and easier to donate money if people are getting something in return, too."

With the support of the Red Cross on campus, Akerman and his classmates are organizing a garage sale in the SUB, where students, faculty and staff can drop off second-hand goods for others to purchase. Even one item will make a difference, said Akerman. The group is looking for clothing, CDs, movies, kitchen goods, books, electronics and anything student shoppers may want.

All proceeds will be donated the Canadian Red Cross.

Kimberley Nemrava, regional director of BC Coastal Red Cross, said Akerman's initiative is proof of "the incredible outpouring of Canadians and how people have taken action to help."

The garage sale is registered with the Canadian Red Cross as having a community fundraising agreement, which assures proceeds, once in the hands of the organization, will go to tsunami relief.

Lauzon's Leave a Legacy Project demands that students leave a community legacy and enhance human wellness and potential.

"I think we went a lot larger than the scope of the assignment expected," said Akerman.

Donations will be collected in the SUB main entrance from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. until Friday, Feb. 4.

The garage sale is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 3 and Monday, Feb. 7 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Michele Pujol room in the SUB.

MEGAN STEWART PHOTO

Joe Akerman (left) and Justin Smith show off garage sale items that will be sold to raise funds for the Canadian Red Cross.

Street Newz poised to hit campus

Paper dedicated to first-person accounts of poverty and homelessness in Victoria

by Andrew Bishop

Publisher Janine Bandcroft is looking for students to spread the good *Newz*.

Street Newz, an independent newspaper dedicated to issues of poverty and homelessness, is hoping to distribute their publication on campus in the coming months.

"We're trying to build bridges within the community," said Bandcroft, *Street Newz* co-ordinator and a UVic alumnus. "We also want to address some of the issues around student poverty, which seems to be a growing concern."

Street newspapers, so-called because they come from the street community, can be found in most major North American cities. As of a year ago, Canada was home to nine such papers.

Like all street newspapers, the primary mission of *Street Newz* is to provide a voice for socially disadvantaged and economically marginalized people—those most affected by poverty and homelessness.

Though *Street Newz*'s commitment is to first-person accounts of poverty, it also contains poetry, analyses of the welfare system and the causes of poverty, news about environmental issues, and lists of places where people can get free food and other help.

Until now, *Street Newz* has primarily been distributed in the downtown core. The vendors, largely homeless and on disability pensions, pay Bandcroft 50 cents per copy and sell them to passersby for as much money as they can get.

One vendor says the majority of his clientele are elderly. "I think a lot of seniors remember the tough times of the depression," said Ted, who asked that his last name not be used. "I also get a lot of tourists, which is good because Victoria is often seen from the outside as a clean, problem-free tourist town."

What the move to campus will do, he hopes, is increase awareness of issues of poverty and homelessness among a younger demographic. "I don't get a lot of kids or teens buying from me." In addition, he says student vendors could use the paper as a source of income.

Ted had a booth set up at clubs days in January to talk to students about the possibility of selling on campus. He hoped to garner interest and organize a group of students to take it on as a project. "They could sell newspapers between classes, make a bit of money to pay their fees." Though he got a few e-mail addresses, he hasn't been able to organize anything firm as of yet.

Bandcroft noted, however, that a business license from both the municipalities of Oak Bay and Saanich would be needed to sell on campus. Additionally, it would need to be approved by UVSS and the administration. "This won't happen unless we get some seriously interested students."

For her part, Bandcroft has little time to commit to any side projects such as this. "It would be good if we could just go ahead and do it ourselves, but I live in poverty myself just to keep *Street Newz* going," she said.

Bandcroft thinks UVic will be a good breeding ground for thoughtful discussions of poverty issues.

In a 1998 study of student loan use at UVic, 37 per cent of students were found to rely heavily on student loans and 32 per cent of students saw money issues as a "major concern." Tuition fees across Canada have gone up by over 135 per cent in the past 10 years, six times more than the rate of inflation. British Columbia is no exception, with an increase of 56.1 per cent in the last two years alone.

An existing resource for poverty-stricken students, the UVic Students' Society Emergency Food Bank has seen three times as many people pass through its doors this year. UVSS chair Joanna Groves points to this as an example of how tuition fee increases have affected the ability of many UVic students to buy the basics, like food.

Any interested students are encouraged to contact Janine Bandcroft at 360-0852 or at streetnewz@cedco.bc.ca.

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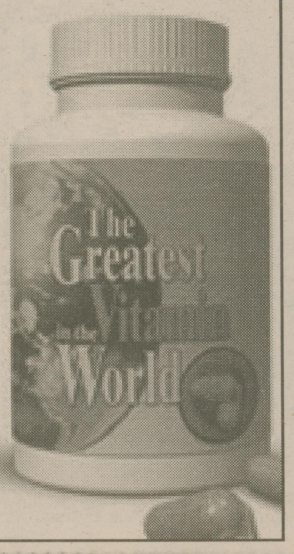

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A fistful of flowers for cancer fundraiser

Cancer survivor sells daffodils for the Canadian Cancer Society

by Patrick Szpak

Elissa Bergman wants you to buy a fistful of daffodils.

Bergman is a fourth-year UVic student pursuing concurrent degrees in professional writing, political science and fine arts.

She is also a cancer survivor.

Diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma at the end of her third year of studies, Bergman endured eight months of treatment, including chemotherapy, before overcoming the cancer and resuming her studies 16 months later.

"During my chemotherapy I would sleep 18 hours a day and I had trouble cooking my own dinner," said Bergman. During and after her treatment Bergman received support from the Canadian Cancer Society.

Bergman returned to UVic determined to increase awareness of cancer on campus and to raise support for the Canadian Cancer Society. She founded the UVSS Daffodil Days Club and helped organize its first major activity to raise funds for the Canadian Cancer Society.

Speaking to classes and organizing through the UVSS, Bergman spread awareness of her new club and her plan to raise funds by selling daffodils—the symbol of hope for the Canadian Cancer Society—to students and faculty.

"The response was very positive," said Bergman, adding that people were "really excited to get involved."

"We now have over 60 active members."

The Daffodil Days club is selling $3 bouquets of daffodils at the entrance to the Student Union Building and in Clearihue. All proceeds will go directly to the Canadian Cancer Society. The tables will be set up until Feb. 4.

"Basically, it's a win-win situation for everyone involved. Students, faculty and staff get to both give and receive beautiful bouquets of daffodils while also contributing to a great cause," said Bergman.

For Bergman the cause is not just the search for a cure for cancer, but the support for other issues surrounding the disease that the Canadian Cancer Society provides.

"I like [the Canadian Cancer Society's] holistic approach that encompasses research, prevention, advocacy and support."

Bergman stressed the importance of the services offered by the Canadian Cancer Society to those living with cancer. "They offer services to people dealing with cancer to just get by and do things that most of us think are normal, like drive to the hospital."

AARON MCMILLIAN PHOTO

The Daffodil Days Club is selling bouquets of daffodils in the SUB and Clearihue until Feb. 4.

Students beaten in York University protest

Police allege student reached for officer's gun

by Maryam Behmard
Excalibur (York University)

TORONTO (CUP)—Two students were badly beaten by police after they refused to leave an anti-imperialist demonstration in York University's Vari Hall, where protest is forbidden.

Police beat PhD student Gregory Bird with a baton, while political science student Nicholas Birtig was taken to hospital due to beatings he allegedly received by police in a holding room in the Ross Building after the rally Jan. 20.

When student protesters refused to leave Vari Hall, police circled a group of demonstrators and a riot transpired. Students were tackled to the ground by several police officers and security personnel before being taken to a room in the Ross Building.

Konstantine Kilibarda, an academic researcher from Cambridge University, was arrested and detained in the room with four other students and said he witnessed the alleged beating of Birtig by the police.

"They started hitting him repeatedly, and when he lifted his head, it was just covered in blood. The group were all pretty roughed up," said Kilibarda, adding: "In detention, I was tackled from behind by an officer and brought to the ground. I didn't resist—I just went limp."

Five people—Bird, Birtig, Kilibarda, Alissa Watt and Erin Gray—were arrested and taken to Toronto police's 31st division after participating in the rally, which was held in protest of the inauguration of United States President George W. Bush and the university's corporate ties.

Const. Isabelle Cotton, spokesperson for the police division, said a struggle in Vari Hall between one student and police led to the student allegedly attempting to reach for an officer's handgun.

"They will be processed and charged for trespassing, assault, and obstruct—those are the charges we are looking at," said Cotton, adding: "When you try to steal an officer's gun, it's pretty major."

Toronto police also allege two officers were punched in the face and one officer had a hot beverage thrown in his face. But Cotton confirmed no officers received bruises or injuries.

The Grassroots Anti-imperialist Network organized the demonstration.

The administration called police after members of the anti-imperialist group and local 3903 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees began using megaphones in Vari Hall and allegedly disrupting classes.

The administration released a notice Jan. 21, stating the protesters became violent, endangering the safety of students and disrupting classes.

Students are prohibited from holding demonstrations in Vari Hall because of its proximity to classrooms, and protesters were provided the option of going to the Burton Auditorium in the fine arts building.

Nancy White, university spokesperson, said York security asked the protesters to leave numerous times and to refrain from using a megaphone, after receiving complaints from faculty members who were teaching in Vari Hall classrooms.

"It's very unfortunate that these individuals became involved in a violent altercation with the police," said White. "The university will do what it can to accommodate students who wish to engage in peaceful protests. We are always open to dialogue."

Gary Brewer, York's vice-president of finance and administration, said the school has never restricted free speech, but those who want to carry out demonstrations must do so in designated areas that will not disrupt classes.

"The university is not against free speech. We do have principles of disallowing the disruption of classes," said Brewer. "We have people here that are willing and able, wanting to show people how to express themselves without disrupting classes. We have classes going on in this space."

Another demonstration was held Jan. 21, criticizing the administration for calling the police to come and intervene at the previous day's protest.

Nick Lary, professor of humanities and vice-president of the York University Faculty Association, maintained Vari Hall should be a space in which students can voice their opinions.

"Students are citizens and have civil liberties. They are our future teachers, leaders and defenders," Lary told the crowd. "We call on president Marsden to make Vari Hall a public space dedicated to free speech."

Video footage, taped by one of the protesters, showed the use of batons on students as well as physical intervention by the police and York security, and it was screened in Vari Hall to over 1,000 students. But it was unclear as to whether or not a student attempted to grab an officer's gun.

Student Moiz Syed is one of many students who viewed the video.

"I don't believe that a student was going for the gun. But the police were also here for our safety," said Syed.

Jared Saltz, an anthropology student, was at the Jan. 20 protest and said both police and students aggravated the situation, and police were not concerned with who should be arrested but rather with clearing the area.

"We know that cops can be defensive. They will panic in certain situations, and we know that as students, and they might act in violence," said Saltz, suggesting perhaps protesters should have exercised caution.

The president of York's student union, Omari Mason, has called for the dismissal of all criminal charges against the five students, the establishment of an external inquiry in the police's intervention, and disciplinary action against security personnel and administrators in charge of security.

SEAN PALTER PHOTO/EXCALIBUR

Over 1,000 York students saw video footage of the Jan. 20 protest and police brutality.

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Editorial

UVSS abortion policy challenged

An ideological battle royale is shaping up for Thursday, Feb. 10 at Cinecenta when the UVSS holds its semi-annual general meeting. On one side we have those who wish to change the students' society's policies on abortion and on the other those who wish to maintain the status quo. A show of hands by attending undergrads and board members will decide the outcome.

For those seeking to change the UVSS policies—namely members of the pro-life Youth Protecting Youth (YPY) and its supporters—the central question is whether the UVSS should take positions in its policies on contentious political issues like abortion. These positions exclude those due-paying students who do not hold the same point of view and, it has been claimed, marginalize and discriminate against them as well.

A neutral UVSS that does not oppress their point of view is all that the pro-life side is seeking, and abolishing the abortion policies are just the step to help restore the balance in an organization, that is, after all, supposed to represent all students. Why can't the UVSS concern itself with issues that really matter and affect students, like services and tuition rates, ask the oppressed?

This seems like a reasonable argument, but it is in fact disingenuous. This is all about abortion and a women's control of her own body, and not whether some students feel that their private beliefs have been marginalized by their students' society. Here's why.

The UVSS policies publicly proclaim that a woman's choice is supported and not judged. To climb down from this position will reduce the public voices acknowledging a women's right to chose by one, in an area where there is no shortage of the opposing view.

Although we would sometimes like to think that each of us is an island capable of making decisions in isolation, the fact of the matter is that public declarations by institutions like the UVSS can lead to progressive change. They can also make some of life's hard decisions less painful, rather than unnecessarily increasing suffering.

Any successful attempt to amend the UVSS's policies on abortion, which have been in place for over a decade, would be tantamount to retreat from the issue. A vote to change UVSS abortion policies puts up for grabs the idea that women control their own bodies, and that restrictions on free, safe and available abortion may be acceptable in the future.

It is important to note from where and whom the challenge to the UVSS's abortion policies are springing. The challenge comes from the old opponents of a woman's right to an abortion. These groups are usually—but not exclusively—certain Christian sects and other conservative groups.

This is an attempted rollback by those who would see women return to an earlier time, pure and simple.

Is this hysterics? A tempest in a teapot? Maybe. But let's remember that a women's right to choose is not set in stone. It is being attacked, and south of the border, it is under siege.

U.S. President George W. Bush has nominated Supreme Court judges who are in favour of overturning Roe vs. Wade, the landmark 1973 U.S. Supreme court case that affirmed a women's right to have an abortion in the face of many state laws that made it illegal.

So far Roe vs. Wade has stood up, but barely. In other areas President Bush and his political allies have had more success in restricting abortion funding, making certain kinds of abortion illegal, and ensuring that many women considering an abortion are only given material intended to dissuade and make them feel bad about their choice. These are the signs of our times, and we would be foolish to ignore them.

To those who are pro-life, we say you are free to act on your beliefs, and, should you get pregnant, your choice will be supported, whatever it may be.

But please, keep your views private, and do not try forcing them on those who are faced with one of life's difficult decisions.

See you Thursday, 3 p.m. in Cinecenta.

Editorial topics are decided at weekly editorial meetings and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of all staff members.

Don't like what you read? Write us, or write for us.
edit@martlet.ca

GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

"Oh, I understand why they do it, sure, but I'd be happy to buy my own condoms if people would give away something I use every day. Like muffins. I love muffins!"

LETTERS

New Recruits review 'blows'

Whoa! That review by Kate McDonald was harsh! As a co-owner of Camobear Records and executive producer of our New Recruits compilation, I feel it's necessary to defend myself, the label and the artists involved. Was it necessary to print such a bad review of a small, independent, Vancouver-based label? I'd respect a bad review if it were truly an intelligent musical critique that actually said something, but McDonald's review "blows." I almost feel like she has a personal vendetta against us. I guess it's especially hurtful when it's from someone so close to home. Gladly, this is the first bad review our label has ever received. The response from Canadian college radio and press has been huge, with New Recruits charting as high as #2 on the national hip hop charts and landing us a distribution deal with Universal. You are alone on this one Kate, but thanks for listening.

Miles Rubin

The City's a cash cow

Re: "'Smart growth' project planned for Cook Street" (*the Martlet*, Jan. 27). The way it works in corporate headquarters at city hall is that anything can be had for a price. The land developer makes an offering—the above-the-table offering is called "bonus density." Of course, the offering is negotiated, and that's why we have a lawyer, not a planner, heading the planning department. Some people are doing very well with this system, while others suffer (namely the local residents who lose their light or right to quiet, et cetera). The City of Victoria wants cash. It would only throw salt in the wound to put up another mattress outside the building (public art at the Landmark). It wouldn't be good for condo sales either.

Bill Wilson

Abortion debate should focus on morality

As a student watching the pro-choice/pro-life drama, I am sick of the misunderstanding, ignorance and bigotry present in both groups. Although both sides have vastly different viewpoints towards the subject of abortion, I believe it is possible to meet on a common ground—the ground of morality. Everyone has morals. Whether they are based on the Holy Bible, another religion, governmental laws, parents or simply derived from life experiences, these morals are the basis of every important decision and viewpoint in a person's life. Two morals in particular are present in both pro-choice and pro-life camps—women's rights and the importance of life.

The main issue in this debate, however, is not whether women have a right to govern their own bodies, but rather, where does life begin. It is a very simple point, but I have yet to hear clearly from either group the point at which they believe a baby is alive. Conception? Birth? Women's rights are not the issue here. Religion is not the issue here. The issue here is right or wrong.

As people of morality, the ramifications of being wrong in this issue are enormous. Do we not want to know?

Tim Ho

Pro-choicers a divided crowd

While I applaud the Student Christian Movement's (SCM) pro-choice stance, some quotes that the authors chose to include disturb me.

Hailey of SCM is quoted as saying, "I do not think abortion is a good thing." This implies that abortion is a bad thing. This mindset is a significant contributing factor to the stigma around abortion. If abortion is considered to be a "bad" thing, women who get abortions are by extension "bad" (selfish, irresponsible, immoral, et cetera). Abortion services are not a necessary evil. They are just necessary.

Hailey goes on to say that she supports the right to choice "until society ensures that all mothers and children are respected, supported and safe." I agree that women should not have to negotiate their pregnancy with factors such as poverty or lack of social support. However, there will always be women who do not want to continue with a pregnancy even if these factors are eradicated. These women are entitled to control over their bodies as well. Abortion services are not a temporary need. They are a means of exercising a permanent right.

I will vote against the proposed revocation of the UVSS pro-choice policy on Feb. 10, alongside SCM. But I cannot truly consider them to be allies until these concerns are addressed.

Pamela Manhas

UVSS abortion policy matters

I suspect the majority of students do not care about the upcoming vote on the UVSS abortion policy. They are probably wondering who even has time to follow university politics, let alone politics, and what power the UVSS actually has. These are valid arguments. But I sure as fuck hope we have enough women represented at this particular meeting, as well as men and the SCM and everyone else who realizes we cannot afford to be complacent. For 40 years we have been battling to end the oppression of women.

The fight isn't over yet, no matter how tired the media is of the issue. Contrary to public opinion, the UVSS policy does have a butterfly effect outside the ring, particularly through lobbying government. The UVSS can no longer do this if the Youth Protecting Youth club succeeds in striking the UVSS policy that supports "the fundamental right of all women to control their bodies" and "the freedom of choice in the matter of abortion." All female students need to vote at the Feb. 10 annual general meeting in Cinecenta. It's easy: you just raise your hand.

Becky Michaluk

YPY responds to SCM

Thank you to Glenys Verhulst and David Ball for their candid article "Christian, pro-choice and proud: UVic club" in the Jan. 27 *Martlet*. But I would like to try to clear up any misconceptions about Youth Protecting Youth (YPY) that the article may have generated.

YPY is a human rights advocacy club. We base our mandate on the ethic that life is worth living and protecting from the time of conception until the time of natural death. We do not advocate harassment of any kind. It is contrary to our purpose.

However, pro-life members of the UVSS have felt stigmatized due (in part) to some policies of the UVSS. Our complaints are these: (1) the UVSS holds policies that we find morally objectionable, and we do not want to be forced into association with such policies; (2) we fear the potential for abuse that these policies have proved to hold. Whether or not you agree about the content of the policies (i.e. abortion), ask yourself if it is right that students at UVic are forced to be members of a society that holds a stance that they find morally untenable. We do not currently have any choice.

Del Myers, Vice President YPY

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Celebrating black history

Black History Month works to promote an inclusive society and campus

by Alonzo Abbey

February is Black History Month (BHM), but the University of Victoria lacks a sense of celebration. A celebration is desperately needed in Victoria, where our black neighbours and classmates are significantly few in number, highly distinguishable and, at times, isolated.

Particular attention should be paid to these 28 days because it is the one opportunity I have each year as a black student to celebrate with my fellow Victorians the rich history of black people in Victoria, without feeling disheartened about the subject's appropriateness.

BHM's objectives are to work against stereotypes and ignorance about black people, black communities and black history. BHM is truly needed to complete the process of building an inclusive society. There are wide gaps in what Canadians know, or think they know, about each other. When these gaps are not addressed, overexaggerated stereotypes subconsciously emerge. Without BHM there would be an information void, and dialogue about these historical contributions would be suppressed. Or, worse, dialogue may only take place in circles that do little to allay fears about stereotypes of "the other."

BHM works towards explaining the substantial history of black people in Canadian history. For example, the first black people who arrived in Halifax over 400 years ago were exiles from Jamaica. During the 1960s and 1970s, the federal immigration policy promoted and encouraged a large number of Caribbean immigrants to come to Canada on domestic worker visas.

There is also a rich black people's history right here in Victoria. In 1866, Canada's first black politician was elected to the Common Council of the City of Victoria. Mifflin W. Gibbs later balanced the city's budget for two consecutive years. In 1858, approximately 800 free blacks were invited by Governor Douglas to come to Vancouver Island and leave behind the racial oppression in San Francisco. The lieutenant-governor also appointed the all-black "African Rifles" as the first police force in the city of Victoria. Today, black UVic students are making history by adding excellence, community involvement and diversity to the campus while challenging stereotypes.

I am disappointed that UVic's beloved Cinecenta missed the opportunity to present a black-orientated film this month to promote some awareness about black history. Last month's showing of *Ray* was a good introduction to the black experience, but I was hoping more would be done, and perhaps something in the spirit of BHM. However, there is still some hope for redemption. The last eight days of February's schedule has not yet been released.

Everyone in Canada who appreciates our cultural mosaic should engage in BHM. We are all neighbours and the more we know about the people around us, the more we will respect each other, acknowledge differences, and work toward building a more inclusive and prosperous society. We need to do this one country, one province, one city, one community and, in UVic's case, one campus at a time. However, I'd be willing to settle for just one film.

Pro-choicer versus pro-lifer

Debating roommates ask UVic students to put women first

by Ariel Hunt-Brondwin and April Griffin

UVic is cluttered with pro-choice and pro-life rhetoric demanding that we vote to decide if we want to keep the official UVSS pro-choice stance at its Feb. 10 semi-annual general meeting. Like many of you, I find the ongoing debate around abortion at UVic and in my home to be exhausting. Wait . . . did I just say in my home?

Allow me to explain. I am pro-choice and live with four people who are strongly pro-life, including my roommate April. Since April and I come from different sides of the abortion question, we thought that our perspectives might add some colour to what is increasingly becoming a black-and-white debate.

I was raised with the belief that a woman's right to control her reproductive capabilities is a fundamental freedom and that abortion should be safe, legal and accessible.

April, like myself, believes abortion is a complex issue. However, she sees abortion as involving the lives and bodies of both mother and unborn child. From April's perspective, there are many reproductive choices and freedoms available to women, but abortion goes beyond choice. She feels it is unfair to make women choose between raising a child with economic uncertainty and ending the life of her unborn child.

Given that Canadian single mothers represent the largest group living below the poverty line (Statistics Canada, 2002), she claims that abortion hasn't and won't solve the feminization of poverty. Increased support for women and a greater respect for the value of life and motherhood in our society will.

Abortion is, to her, a form of violence like capital punishment, racism and euthanasia. She finds it disturbing that students want to keep a UVSS policy that effectively bans any further discussion on abortion by opposing any new government abortion law. She is also alarmed that there is no UVSS gender policy other than the one that pertains to abortion. For that reason, she wants to work to create policy that looks beyond the issue of abortion and addresses barriers that women face in society.

Before April and I were friends, I don't think I ever took the time to understand pro-life arguments. I don't think I ever wanted to. The images in my mind of zealous anti-abortion protestors had me decided about what I thought of most pro-lifers.

Talking with April has raised serious questions in my mind. I can't help but wonder what it is about our society that has created the need for abortions. Do we really live in a society that values women, motherhood, children and families or even seeks to? I still feel that abortion is a necessary and legitimate choice that should be available to women without condemnation. However, in the extremely important fight to maintain safe access to abortion, we have lost sight of how patriarchal values still dominate our society.

We are not going to tell you how to vote on Feb. 10, but we do urge pro-choicers and pro-lifers to stop demonizing each another. Instead, they should work on creating a campus that is willing to listen to each other to find some common ground in supporting women.

The problem with God

Groundless religious beliefs could result in an apocalyptic catastrophe

by Dave Psutka

The overwhelming majority of people believe in a supreme ethereal being that conveys its teachings in a divine book.

Incidentally, there are a number of these books that each make exclusory claims to their infallibilty. Differing opinions throughout the world about the characteristics of God have been at the heart of deadly conflicts in Palestine, the Balkans, Northern Ireland, Kashmir, Sudan, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Iraq and the Caucasus — proof that religion causes much suffering and death. The predominant religions have fundamental characteristics that result in such atrocities. Consequently, a world free of religion and the concept of God would be much more prosperous.

A common theme in religious scripture is the intolerance of those with differing beliefs, like in Deuteronomy 13:1-18, Koran 3:10 and Devarim, 23:2. The combination of widespread religious practice and intrinsic intolerance is to blame for millions of violent deaths. And now, a conflict grown out of religious intolerance could result in an apocalyptic catastrophe. Sound far-fetched? India and Pakistan, predominantly Hindu and Muslim respectively, have been to war three times in the last 50 years. Alarmingly, both countries possess thermonuclear devices and, according to the *New York Times*, have said they are willing to use them.

At the heart of each religion are many untestable propositions that prevail without a single shred of evidence. For example, Jesus was born of a virgin, martyrs will go straight to Heaven, God exists, et cetera. These canons exclude reason from religious thought in a way that allows for wildly irrational fanaticism.

Most of these propositions are incompatible with the most rudimentary scientific beliefs and still persist, and occasionally dominate, popular thought in modernized countries. For instance, according to a recent Gallup poll, 46 per cent of Americans accept a literalist view of creation.

Another feature of many religions is the belief in the afterlife. The problem with this untestable claim is that it makes death innocuous and allows for suicide bombing and martyrdom. Surely suicide bombing in the Middle East would be less popular if many young Muslims didn't believe that martyrdom was a free ticket to "gardens watered by running streams." (Although many Muslims believe martyrdom is heretical, it is still the predominant belief in the Middle East, according to a survey done by the Pew Research Center in 2002.) When the belief in an afterlife exists, death on this planet loses significance.

The beliefs outlined so far are those of religious extremists and literalists, and are unpopular in tolerant Canada. Unquestionably, many religious people are moderate. But moderatism poses a problem as well. Moderatism, in fact, permits fundamentalism because it logically disallows any criticism of it. As a literalist or fundamentalist is one who takes the word of the scripture literally, a moderate is one who has accepted the book at an allegorical level and has disregarded certain canons because of their incompatibility with contemporary laws and social norms.

While a moderate may disagree with a literalist's interpretation of a text, they will have a hard time refuting it. Interestingly, most faiths demand a full and complete acceptance of their texts, like in Deuteronomy 13:1, Koran 5:86 and Nicene Creed, to name a few. While fundamentalists have stayed true to their vows and accepted the book as the infallible word of God, the moderate has essentially acknowledged its fallibility and has partially renounced it.

In defence of religion, it is undeniable that religious groups pursue countless charitable ventures. However, the belief in God, heaven and other fantastical concepts is not required for one to act virtuous. Conversely, the act of blaming Sept. 11 on homosexuals—as preacher Jerry Falwell did—blowing up a bus station full of civilians or refusing a life-saving blood transfusion almost never comes without a fervent belief in God.

We as a society must accept the potentially devastating consequences of the collision of new world technology and old world religion. Purging the belief in religion and God would achieve such an end. To criticize religion so bluntly seems contrary to tolerance and open-mindedness. But at a time when our planet seems on the brink of something truly catastrophic, perhaps strong words are the least we can do.

Selling an *unattainable ideal*

by Megan Stewart

Saturday, Feb. 6 marks the beginning of Eating Disorder Awareness Week in Canada. A poster contest for Northern Ontario students in Grades 9 to 12 conveys the theme: Different shapes are natural, different shapes are beautiful.

According to Canada's National Eating Disorder Information Centre (NEDIC), 70 per cent of North American women are dieting at any given time while 40 per cent continually yo-yo diet. Within five years, 95 per cent of dieters will re-gain what weight they lost, if not more. NEDIC credits "social pressures to be thin" for the high numbers of male and female overly conscious eaters and says that the continent's diet industry boasts an annual profit of roughly $40 billion.

At About-Face.org, media outlets and advertising campaigns are criticized for sexist, derogatory and simple-minded portrayals of women. The site is based in San Francisco and focuses on education and activism: featured is a round-up of the fashion industry's worst ad campaigns and contact information for company promoters. Liz Dittrich, a clinical psychologist and director of research and outreach at About-Face, is fed up with magazines promoting an "ideal" woman but laments that such rags remain hugely popular. Body comparison is inevitable when a woman reads *Glamour*, *Cosmo*, *Shape* or any similar publication, and Dittrich believes the unattainable "media 'ideal' wins out, reminding us of our flaws and affecting our self-esteem."

"There is nothing wrong with wanting to be beautiful," she concludes, "but there is something wrong with today's standard of beauty. It excludes most women."

THE NEW THEOLOGY

Television producers hyped a new reality show on the Fox Network last year—this one showcasing the re-creation of the ideal woman. *The Swan*, which premiered in April 2004, is an ambitious (and televised) renovation of the human form, where unkempt female souls are saved from their own ugliness. The show's animated hostess preaches a modern scripture that, instead of creationism, urges re-creationism. A team of re-creative specialists—a cosmetic surgeon, a reconstructive dentist, a physical trainer and a life coach—don't simply re-shape the genetically flawed heathen: they re-create her, piece by piece. Re-creationism is the New Theology. The desperate are praying for salvation, and the audience has tuned in. In its first season, *The Swan* averaged 9.2 million viewers per episode.

"I find that show absolutely compelling," gushes Jean Bobby Noble, a UVic Women's Studies associate professor. With an office of bookshelves filled with neo-feminist texts and soft-cover biographies of Princess Diana, he is one of the last people you would expect to be a fan of the show.

"It's a train wreck, but I find myself pulled in," says Noble, whose research interests include queer studies and transsexual masculinity. "Who amongst us doesn't have things about us that we don't like?"

YOUR FEMINIZATION IS COMPLETE

With messianic fervour, a voice pulsates around the soundstage of *The Swan*. Speaking in rhythm with synthesized piano music, the tan, leggy, silicone hostess is a 21st-century, prime-time prophet. Quick to admire the transformed ugly ducklings who now revel in their "natural beauty," she hints at a Second Coming as she throws around the phrases "introduce your new self to the world" and "aren't you a miracle."

The hostess croons to the show's latest project, "Congratulations. Your feminization process has been completed."

It's most upsetting that the bevy of specialists brag about detailed "feminization plans" and singularly aim to make a woman more womanly. Curves are sucked away if they're not artificially enhanced; features are renovated; teeth are laser whitened. Each woman emerges undistinguishable from the next.

Perhaps not beautiful, the hostess is flawless. So much, in fact, that Mattel, the makers of Barbie, might just have a case in suing over patent infringement. The hostess, and every sanctimonious beauty appearing on *The Swan*, testifies to re-creationism.

Lips lack luster? Well, you're not a real woman until they're plump like banana slugs.

Buttocks flat? Breasts amorphous? You know you're not a real woman until silicone implants under your skin squeak at high altitudes.

The conviction that these women were beyond hope before *The Swan* is alarming. What they lack is confidence and re-affirmation, not delicate bone structure. *The Swan* preaches that "natural and inner beauty" is hiding under a woman's ugliness, her stuck-in-a-rut-ness, just waiting to be revealed by a scalpel and a gym membership.

DOVE'S NEW BEAUTY: DEMOCRATIC OR MULTINATIONAL?

The Dove Report: Challenging Beauty is a research project sponsored by Dove's parent company, the multinational corporation Unilever. In an attempt to understand how we relate to beauty, the project interviewed 1,600 women in the United States and an additional 1,400 women worldwide. "A Letter from Dove" declares that the study "[will] generate discussion that will help evolve the perception of beauty to be more empowered, forgiving and democratic."

Unilever's motivation behind *The Dove Report* is marketing. Dove, the brand-line known for no-frills, sensitive-skin-loving soap, now also manufactures product lines for body and hair. Based on "intensive qualitative research," the corporation claims that two per cent of women around the globe consider themselves beautiful. In Canada, only one per cent of women say they are "very satisfied" with their face. The other 99 per cent of the population—according to Dove, who polled 100 Canadians—say they are "somewhat satisfied," "somewhat dissatisfied" or "not at all satisfied" with their body and face.

"Capitalism works on selling us deficiencies," says Noble. Consumers are sold an ideal, and if they want a certain look, they must buy into the marketing and acknowledge their flaws.

In the children's fable *The Ugly Duckling*, the young swan had an unspecified gender, yet the guests on *The Swan* are all female. However, Noble makes clear that the idealized image of the blond pin-up is not exclusively female. Images of either sex, printed on the pages of a glossy magazine, encourage a feeling of inadequacy and simultaneously sell a suitable remedy.

"If advertising made us feel good about how we are, we wouldn't buy their products," concludes Noble. "We are constantly being sold insufficiency."

SELF-LOATHING IN A BOTTLE

Launched in tandem with *The Dove Report*, and claimed as justification for the research, a Dove marketing campaign celebrates inner beauty by plastering a series of natural-looking woman on billboards and magazine pages. In "the campaign for real beauty," individual women who exhibit what might otherwise be considered an imperfection are revealed as gorgeous.

One Dove "real beauty" advertisement invites viewers to declare a freckled redhead, 22-year-old Leah Sheehan, either "flawed or flawless." Irene Sinclair, 95, is either "wrinkled or wonderful" and silver-haired Merlin Glozer is either "grey or gorgeous." Since October 2004, five poster images of women have been working the campaign trail. In them, Dove asks if "beauty means looking like everyone else."

One of the "field experts" supporting the research, and quoted in the report, is culture critic Naomi Wolf. Known for writing acclaimed feminist critiques, such as *The Beauty Myth*, *Fire with Fire* and *Promiscuities*, Wolf writes in *The Dove Report* that modern women have undergone a "marked, and measurable, sea change" in their attitudes towards beauty. Women today, she argues, have deconstructed an imposed "ideal" and have bought into a "comfortable, affirming new 'beauty philosophy' that is a far cry from the rigid exclusive beauty ideal of the recent past."

Here we have a woman who, in *The Beauty Myth*, vented that "somewhere, somehow, someone must have figured out that they [i.e. women] will buy more

MEDIA SKEPTICISM

At About-Face.org, web surfers are enco
the message of popular culture." About-
Kathy Bruin plastered re-vamped poster
exaggerated skeletal proportions of the
"starvation images."

A second poster, hung during National E
industry's tendency to reduce body parts
fashion season may trumpet full breasts
are not fashion accessories!"

The posters are not a statement against
limiting depiction of women in today's

things if they are kept in the self-hating, ever-failing, hungry and sexually insecure state of being aspiring 'beauties.'"

Wolf hit the nail on the head. But now the Yale-educated, Germaine Greer-applauded critic has seemingly joined the corporate ranks and is selling us the products we need to be our naturally beautiful selves.

In a moment of advertising, Dove reaffirms that radiant skin, a smooth Caucasian complexion and an utter lack of body hair is beautiful. Sure, the ladies featured in the ads were pulled off the sidewalks of London and New York, but their effortless everyday-ness is packaged, polished and presented to consumers as if they were any other well-lit and heavily made-up model.

As a supporter of *The Dove Report* and consequential "campaign for real beauty," Wolf shows herself to be a re-creationist prophet not unlike the hostess of *The Swan*. By buying in to the good intentions of Dove advertising, Wolf is guilty of selling women an unattainable ideal and is guilty of selling out.

At About-Face, the Dove campaign is lauded in the gallery of winners for "challenging the concept of beauty in popular culture," but it doesn't seem to fit. Although an A-cup woman is cheered for her proud love-of-self, her image is nonetheless perfectly packaged. Her under-endowment is under-shadowed by Dove's marketing of a long, lean, leggy woman who beams with large, white teeth.

Dittrich, the About-Face psychologist, cites research that claims the average person sees between 400 and 600 ads every day and that one of every 11 commercials directly relates to beauty. Women's magazines contain more beauty-related content and advertising than anything else. Dittrich named a mid-90s study that analyzed readers' reaction to images of thin models. It found that media exposure had a direct relationship between symptoms of eating disorders in men and women, and their results suggested that exposure to such pictures produces depression, shame, guilt, body dissatisfaction and stress.

Dove's marketing line of "real beauties" is now part of the arsenal affronting women as they flip through glossies, walk under billboards and channel surf. As much as this campaign strives to champion a woman's authentically natural attributes, it is nonetheless a tribute to re-creationism: women are plucked off the street and transformed into dazzling models thanks to a splash of soapy water.

The slogan might aim for change, but the message is lost in the unreal images.

As Dittrich says, if we talked to out friends as we sometimes talk to our bodies, we'd have no friends. Although Dove has attempted this dialogue on our behalf, re-creating our own self-images has to come before any photograph affects our self-esteem or any person is allowed access to our bodies.

For too long, beauty has been defined by narrow, unattainable stereotypes. It's time to change all that. Because Dove believes real beauty comes

raged to develop "a healthy skepticism about media images and ace was launched in August 1995 when rebellious media critic of a nude Kate Moss around San Francisco. Criticizing the K model's unnatural thinness, Bruin called for a stop to

ting Disorders Awareness Week in 1996, satirized the fashion o accessories or simple, en vogue trinkets. Bruin wrote, "A r flat breasts (or fake breasts) but Hey! Women's body parts

nin women or models, Bruin insisted, but a protest against the vertising culture.

Surprises at Groovefest

What: Groovefest
Where: Vertigo
When: Feb. 12
How Much: $7 for the first hundred tickets sold, $10 thereafter, or $12 at the door. Available at SUB Info Booth, Kiss & Tell, and Lyle's Place.

by Melanie Green

GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

It's that time of year again—chocolate hearts, smooching couples, men in drag defiantly walking down the runway. . . . What? That's right—it's time for the ninth annual Groovefest.

If you've never heard of Groovefest, it's officially described as "a fun, fabulous event that gives the finger to mainstream ideals and socially imposed notions of beauty."

It's purposely scheduled for Feb. 12, two days before Valentine's Day, as a symbol of disdain towards the heterosexual consumer holiday.

But let's not get too serious. It is called Groovefest, after all. What's so groovy about telling off media-generated ideals, you ask? It's the format of the message.

Groovefest is a licensed event packed with tons of performers held at Vertigo in the SUB. You'll see drag performances, skits, hip-hop MC Ndidi Cascade with Deanna, Su Comandante, Ros Salvador, the South Island Dancers of the Esquimalt Nation and more. There are also prizes for the grooviest outfits and a silent auction.

More than entertainment and an excuse to party, Groovefest also has a message.

Spokesperson Emma Thomas believes the event "challenges mainstream conceptions of sexuality, critiques normative values and celebrates diversity." This message is announced loud and clear through the anti-fashion, outlaw talent and radical variety shows meant to open eyes and minds.

Groovefest welcomes all people who want to be themselves, without boundaries or stereotypes infringing on their individuality, for one night of personal freedom.

While we're busy empowering ourselves, it's important to remember that some people don't have a chance to get out and make a statement about their own uniqueness. That's why the proceeds from Groovefest will be donated to Project Respect, Victoria Native Friendship Centre and Global Alliance Against Trafficking of Women.

If you're wondering who could be putting on such a liberating event, just go into the SUB building and look for the UVSS Women's Centre in SUB B107. Here you'll find space for all self-identified women on campus and in the wider community. It's a safe and comfortable environment for women to go and be themselves, regardless of personal definitions of womanhood.

This doesn't mean that all self-identified men aren't welcome at Groovefest. Every person who celebrates tolerance and acceptance is invited to the festival. I've spoken with both male and female friends who have attended the event, and both sexes said they had a great time. But be warned—don't come in hopes of picking up chicks because you never know what you may find under a skirt at Groovefest.

Groovefest has it all: celebration, a positive message, fundraising for a good cause and a liquor license. Thomas invites you to "Have a good time, party, and not be judged."

So, go ahead and get your groove on.

For more information, contact groovefest@riseup.net.

A string of shows for tsunami relief

by Andrea Dupuis

Kicking off on Feb. 3, Victoria comes together for the Victoria City Wide Tsunami Relief Benefit Series. All collected proceeds will be donated to the Canadian Red Cross. Ten shows in 11 days will feature a slew of local bands and musicians of various genres ranging from metal to hip hop. The venues holding the shows will cover the production costs. (All door prices are suggested donations—but feel free to give more.)

Night #1
When: Thursday, Feb. 3, 9 p.m .
Where: Hush
How Much: $6
Who: Ali B
Mama Miche
The Sorceress

Night #2
When: Friday, Feb. 4, 9 p.m.
Where: Steamers
How Much: $6
Who:The Bloodwarmers
Lola Parks
Lal

Night #3
When: Saturday, Feb. 5, 9 p.m.
Where: Sugar Nightclub
How Much: $5
Who: Velvet
Stir Fry
Armchair Cynics (acoustic)

Night #4
When: Sunday, Feb. 6, 9 p.m.
Where: Logan's Pub
How Much: $5
Who: Enchanted Faeries
The Dirty

Night #5
When: Monday, Feb. 7, 9 p.m.
ALL AGES
Where: Central Bar and Grill
How Much: $5
Who: Greenlaw Ave
Rebecca Everett

Night #6
When: Wednesday, Feb. 9, 9 p.m.
Where: Legends
How Much: $5
Who: Smoked Out Brainzzz
King Bong
ZAPNINBLACK

Night #7
When: Thursday, Feb. 10, 9 p.m.
Where: The Upstairs Cabaret
How Much: $5
Who: Wax Daddy Lux
Murge
mischief
Gatringer
The Sorceress
Verse

Night #8
When: Friday, Feb. 11, 9 p.m.
Where: Lucky Bar
How Much: $5
Who: Kia Kidiri
Get Some
Ishkan & Jeff Spec
DJ Surgery and Anger

Night #9
When: Saturday, Feb. 12 (early show 8 p.m. to midnight)
Where: Diegos
How Much: $5
Who: Rod Iron Haulers
The SwitchBlade Valentines
The Bettilu Bombshells

Night #10
When: Sunday, Feb. 13, 9 p.m.
ALL AGES
Where: Darcy's Pub
How Much: $5
Who: Adam K
Leeroy Stagger
Zsolt Sandor
tim
Justin Hewitt
Tom Hopper
Matt Johnson

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Interviewers will be on campus Monday, February 28th 10am to 4pm in the Student Union Building - Michele Pujol

Sixties love story trite but true

Phoenix Theatre's latest loses the vibe

What: *Hippies and Bolsheviks*
Where: Phoenix Theatre
When: Jan. 28 to Feb. 5
How Much: $10 to $20

by Stephanie Bowen

Trite in the manner of most heart-warming tales, the Phoenix's latest, *Hippies and Bolsheviks*, grooved its way onstage last weekend.

It's a story of free love gone amiss, 20-somethings living in 1960s Vancouver, and draft dodging and single-motherhood, all rolled into a cliché-saturated hour and a quarter.

Jeff and Star have just met at a Led Zeppelin concert and, with cougarish prowess, Star has lured young Jeffery back to her lair. However, in and around her advancements, the two manage to share several "special" moments, culminating in sweet post-coital pillow talk. That is, of course, until Star's ex-partner (Greentree, nee Allan) appears on the scene. The usual hilarity and drama ensue as the three individuals attempt to untangle their little love web.

The most striking aspect of this play is that there's very little striking about it. The characters are average, not incredibly well-developed but interesting enough. The writing is mediocre but passable, with loose ends tied into a pretty bow at the conclusion. The set is . . . well, frankly it looks like any student's studio apartment today.

Cameron Anderson plays a charming 19-year-old Jeff, wide-eyed and cocksure with conviction. Camille Stubel, too, fills her role amply as Star, portraying a weathered woman-of-the-world with a sensitive side. The only hitch may be Paul Fauteux as Allan. Not lacking in skill, Fauteux bumbles around trying to do right. Unfortunately, he does lack the charisma one would assume is needed by a character who purportedly knows his way around a commune (wink, wink). The actors give it their all but are tripped up by bland dialogue.

In a recent interview, writer/director Amiel Gladstone claimed that he writes scripts out of necessity when nothing else passable is available for Theatre SKAM, *Hippies*' production company. One wonders how necessary another story about the '60s really is. We understand that communes often fell apart due to drugs or lack of commitment, we know that free love was typically more painful than most liked to admit, and we certainly understand the kindness of strangers, though it makes less and less of an appearance in our world today. This gentle, shiny story will make you chuckle, but it offers up very little original insight into its era or into the human condition in general.

This is not to say that *Hippies and Bolsheviks* should be ruled out. Moments where doe-eyed Star stares up from the couch and says, "Tell me a story" to her young lover create a subtle intimacy between the two, and the heft of the words passed between Allan and Star is nothing if not relatable. You may never have lived in a patchouli-scented long house with 13 other people, but chances are you've shared similar sentiments with a significant other.

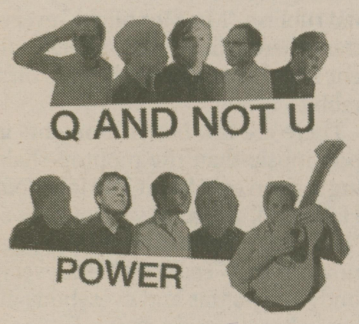
When the Zeppelin fades out and the lights come up, your mind won't be blown and your consciousness won't be expanded, but you might just smile and say, "That was nice."

And I'm sure most of us can dig that groovy vibe, man.

PROVIDED PHOTO

***Hippies and Bolsheviks*, directed by Amiel Gladstone, focuses on a hairy sixties love triangle.**

Get laid with Q and Not U



Q and Not U
Power
Dischord Records

by Briony Smith

Power, Q and Not U's third album, is, in a word, sex-tastic, the kind of super-album to throw on while eyeing a make-out with that cutie you met at the used record store.

Coming in at a dainty 38 minutes, it's the perfect disc for times when you need those keyboards to score your slipping a hand under someone's shrunken vintage tee.

"Wonderful People" sticks your tongue in the maw of your Wonderful Person with plinky guitar aplenty, the whining vocals counterpart to your inner keening about breath or breast size, the porn "wow-ow-wooow" the womp pedal to your throbbing genitalia.

"Daughters" and "L.A.X" are a little stressed, but they're mere blips in an erotic journey towards the genius "Throw Back Your Head"—it's tootly piping and lapping la-las provide an apt accompaniment to going downtown, your face buried in the metro-trim, Buddy Holly glasses all akimbo. With its tambourines, "Wet Work" really is—appropriately enough—the (albeit, premature) climax of the CD, its manic bleeping and screechy synths a sinful simulacra for your thrashing sweating double-helix cumtasmagoria.

The awkwardness of the afterglow could be exacerbated by the creepy "Scarborough Fair"-on-helium vibe of "District Night Prayer," which is best skipped in favour of one of five options.

Schluff along to "Collect the Diamonds" and "Beautiful Beats" if you're home-bound.

Dance to the strangely-Tears-for-Fears-reminiscent tunes "Dine" and "Passwords."

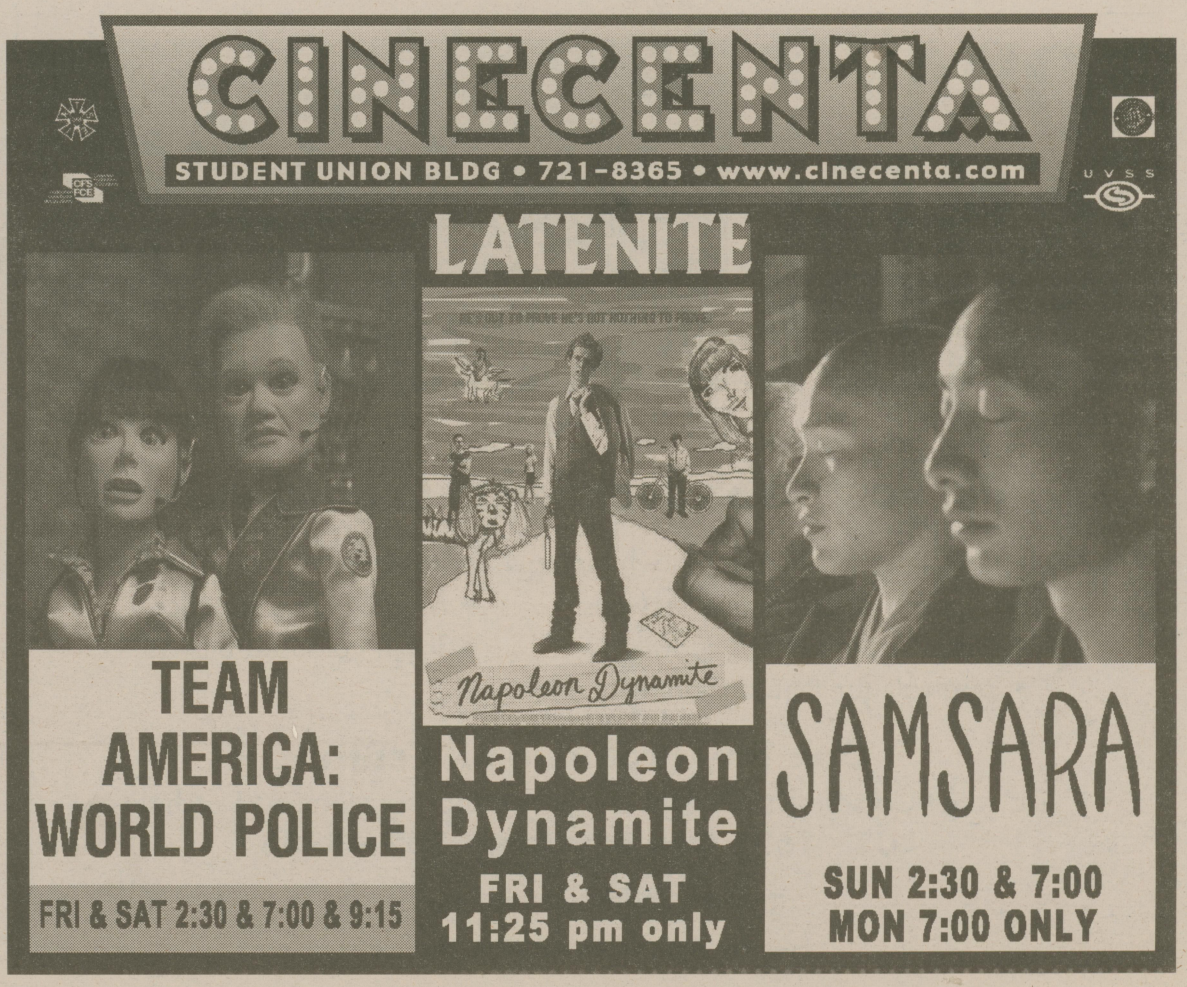
Put on "X-Polynation" and exchange some manic manual. This song sounds like a feverish high-school-style handjob, and there is an encore of tootling a la "Throw Back Your Head," so feel free to throw your head forward.

Late for work and struggling to find your Chuck Taylors? Jam out the door to the random fades and stricken "Whoooo!"s of "Book of Flags."

And "Tag-Tag" is for when you smack your head on your conquest's ironic bunk bed post-coitus.

In the words of Q and Not U on "Collect the Diamonds," collect this diamond.

Power is gold.



Degenatron

The pixelated lure of retro gaming

by Aaron Williams

"Hello, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to Pressing Issues on VCPR. That's Vice City Public Radio. High quality educational programming about serious topics and the consistent reminder that the world is going to hell in a handbasket."

Since its release in 2002, *Grand Theft Auto: Vice City* has been hailed as the biggest advance in video game history. Featuring a non-linear 1,000-page script, a comical portrayal of life during the Reagan years, and a cast of characters including Ray Liotta, Burt Reynolds, Luis Guzman, Lawrence Taylor and Dennis Hopper, it's hard to disagree. *Vice City*'s realism transcends even the game itself, promoting toll-free numbers on VCPR that attentive players can call—in real life.

However, there is a seedier side to *Vice City*. All of its clever cultural references and witty commentaries on self-help gurus (1-866-434-SELF), religious zealots (1-866-9-SAVEME) and scummy lawyers (1-866-9-SHADEE) don't fully excuse it from containing horrifically realistic violence. *Vice City*'s creators wryly confronted this issue by including billboard and radio advertisements for Degenatron, their fictitious 1980s game-within-a-game (www.degenatron.com).

"The Degenatron gaming system plays three exciting games, including *Defender of the Faith*, where you save the green dots with your fantastic flying red square."

The Degenatron title reminds us of how parents and teachers in the '80s preached that video games would rot young minds and ruin society. In the new millennium, the criticisms have not changed, although the authority figures of the past have retired and a new demographic has filled their shoes.

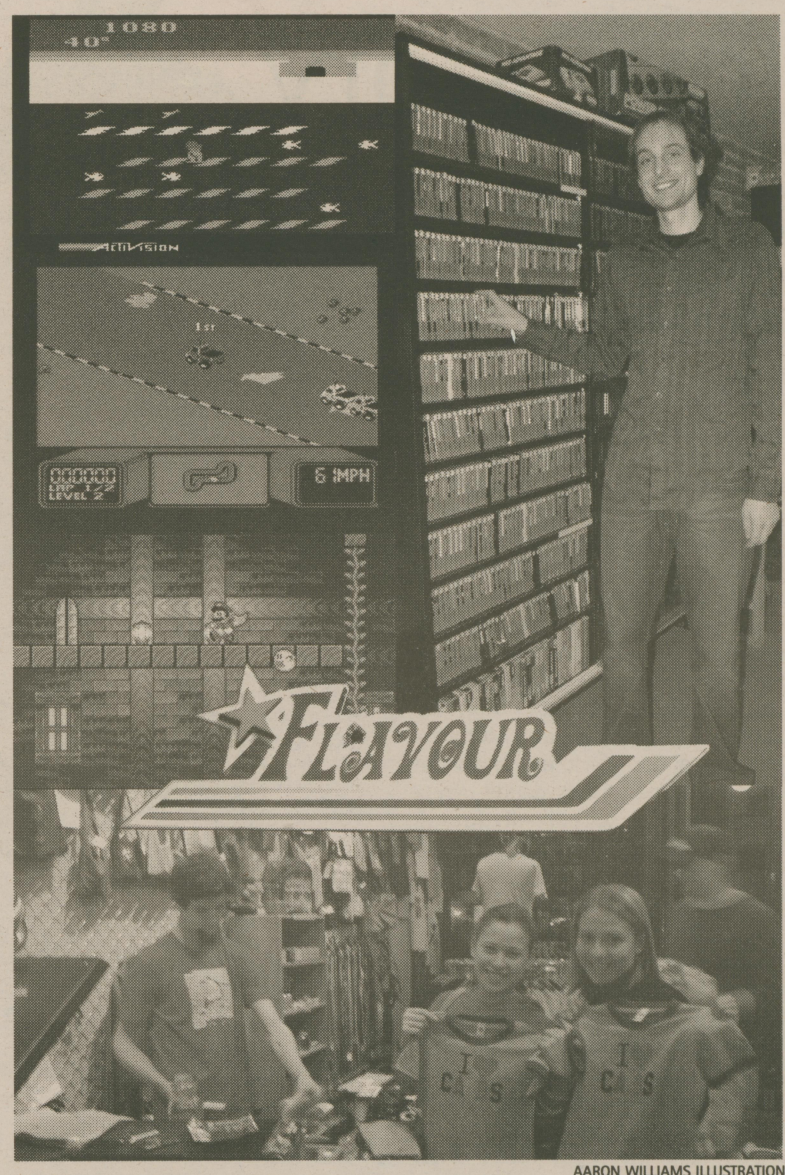
Meanwhile, our own generation stands at a crossroads. Although most university students consider the video games of our youth to be relatively harmless, a growing percentage of us reject newer games as too graphic and too violent. Are we following the pattern laid down by our parents' generation (which accepted the "rebellious" Beatles, only to reject the heavy metal and rap music that followed)? Is the world truly going to hell in a handbasket?

Or has our generation already reached the age where we are incapable of accepting change, biding our time until we reach the cultural oblivion that is old age in the New World (1-866-9-BURYME)?

The Degenatron raises additional questions about vintage video games and the fate of technology in general. If older video game systems used to be so popular, why don't we still play them today? Do better graphics and more buttons always mean more fun? How can technology be considered a progression when everything old is discarded and everything new is taken for granted? And will future generations embrace the games of the past?

In the midst of all these questions is Dan Luchin, co-founder of the hip downtown store Flavour. The ground floor of Flavour looks like a giant box of rainbow Nerds, featuring colourful K-Way jackets, custom T-shirts, funky bags and snazzy belt buckles, while the top floor houses Flavour's sizeable video game collection, including thousands of cartridges ranging from Atari to Nintendo 64.

Never much of a gamer himself (his older brother watched over the Nintendo), Luchin points out that he has always been interested in business, even hawking furniture and pool tables as a youth. After dropping out of the business program at Camosun College in 2002, Luchin hung his house painting job up to dry and started buying and selling games on eBay. "It was easy back then, because there weren't many people doing it," he explains.



AARON WILLIAMS ILLUSTRATION

Looking for old-school Atari or NES games? Flavour is the place.

In October 2003, after racing through a $20,000 line of credit, Dan and Scott Hilton opened their store on prime real estate near the corner of Johnson and Government. Fortunately, the store was an immediate success, and the video game business now turns over a thousand games each month. Along the way, many excited faces have walked up the stairs.

"Lots of people had an obscure game growing up that they thought they'd never see again," said Luchin. "We have over 450 different Nintendo cartridges alone, so there is a good chance we have it."

The employees have even had a brush or two with fame. "Broken Social Scene came in and bought an Atari with nine games. We also had the actress Diane Lane who starred in some Richard Gere movies."

Check them out downtown at 581 Johnson Street, online at www.madflavour.com or search for username flavour_girl on eBay.

When asked about the flavour_girl username, Dan cracks a smile. "We figured more people would trust us if we pretended to be girls."

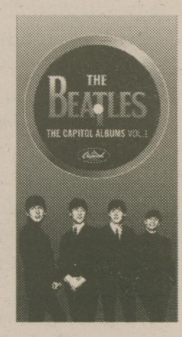
Beatles good, box set bad

The Beatles
The Capitol Albums Vol. 1
Capitol

by Tom Birch

Capitol Records has done a very strange thing. Here on CD for the first time are the early Beatles as America first heard them, which means the albums have different names and the songs are all in the wrong order. Even in the '60s, nobody liked these albums. Who in the world would want them now?

The Beatles, of course, were better than anybody else—ever. Throughout these four discs, the Fab Four hammer out their breezy, oddly sophisticated seventh chords and wobbly solos, while Ringo attacks his cymbals with such fury that one begins to wonder if he didn't once come home early and find them under the covers with his wife, doing things they shouldn't be.



Bob Dylan moaned that "their chords were just outrageous," and the first two discs in this box (*Meet the Beatles* and the helpfully titled *Beatles' Second Album*) will have you nodding your head in agreement.

We also get *Beatles '65* (from 1964, and why not!) and *Something New*, on which Lennon and McCartney became very, very good at writing songs. Aside from the eternal rubbish "Mr. Moonlight," everything here brims with enough talent and fun to charm the ears off a rabbit.

There are few better moments in pop music than the moptop-shaking scream of "I Want To Hold Your Haaaaand," the sugary harmonies of "If I Fell" or that "nnnrrrggggg" noise from "I Feel Fine." But everybody knows this and everybody already has these songs.

Capitol's main selling point seems to be that the tracks come in a different order and have a sort of echo. A new Beatles release can probably never be a bad thing, but this is an odd one.

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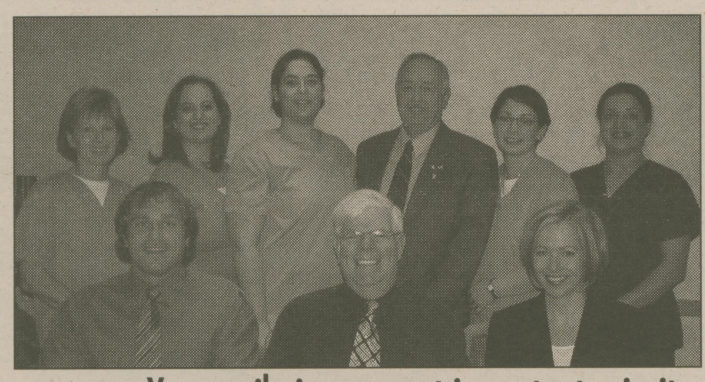

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Dirty, heady puppetry for grown-ups

Calgary's Old Trout Puppet Workshop brings *Istvan* to life in Victoria

by Sacha Narine

If *The Unlikely Birth of Istvan* is an allegory, I couldn't tell you exactly what it represents. Two signs hang on the set. One has a picture of an eye and the word "that." The other shows a mouth and the word "this." The two main characters are a painter and a chef.

The allegory, on a basic level, seems to be about the conflict between mind and body, the interplay between animal urges and intellectual pursuits. The artist creates and the cook consumes.

And they're puppets. And there's a singing pig.

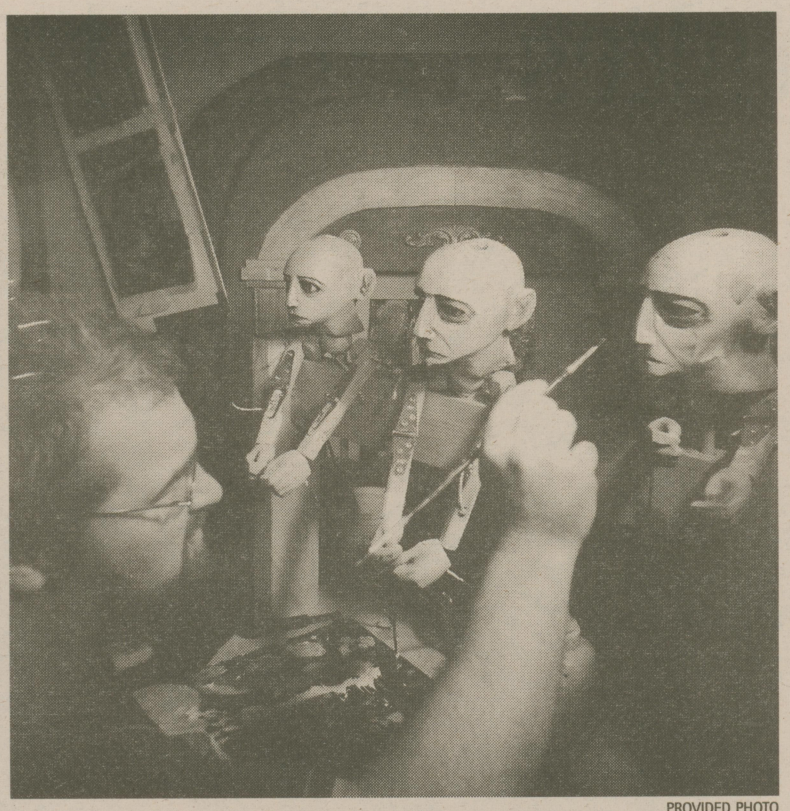
The Old Trout Puppet Workshop's most recent play spans the spectrum of theatrical delights—humour, pathos, wit and fun. Even the carefully staged title sequence drew a few chuckles. Shortly thereafter, enormous prosthetic legs spread wide and out came Istvan, a wide-eyed shrunken head with a mammoth proboscis. This peculiar little creature showed up in a variety of sizes but remained recognizable throughout. His features are vulnerable and open—Istvan is an observer.

Soon we discover he paints. Not well, for he is, after all, a puppet. First he paints a flower, then an orange. But soon all the flowers are gone. A gluttonous cook shows up in the painter's garden disguised as a flower. While the painter sleeps, the cook eats all the flowers, finally resorting to eating the flower adorning his own head.

The cook is "this"— the mouth—and the painter is "that"—the eye. The meek painter evades the cook until a remarkable singing pig enters the scene, and the painter must save the pig from an undignified spit-roasting. The arrival of the ham marks one of the funniest moments in the play, which is consistently amusing.

The first sounds we hear are the tramping of puppeteers' feet from behind the stage. Then, after the title is revealed, a gramophone (a delightful mask for the real sound system) crackles through high-end speakers and music fills the theatre.

The play has no words, no dialogue—just noise and music. And both are wonderful. The expressive grumbles and whimpers of the painter bring life to this allegoric intellect, and the B-52s' "Planet Claire" plays us through a heroic hot air balloon rescue. If *Istvan* has one great triumph, it is in sound and music. Watch how the painter's alarm clock becomes a character through careful puppetry and sound manipulation.



PROVIDED PHOTO

The Old Trouts' puppets sit atop the puppeteers' heads.

The puppeteers wear black and red, and remain hooded throughout. In another hilarious moment, the play acknowledges its own medium by inserting a puppeteer into a story by and about puppets.

The program calls *Istvan* "an absurdist creation myth, equal parts Beckett and *Sesame Street*." But I hesitate to compare something so superficially enjoyable to Beckett.

Endgame won't have you cracking many smiles or choking up or smiling with understanding. Beckett is a master, but his work is rarely entertainment for those who do not already know it.

Istvan may have ideological depth, it may be a complex allegory, but it is not minimalist, and it is not a play solely for critics.

At only 60 minutes, *Istvan*'s birth seemed too short. Every minute was a treat. The crowd applauded until hands turned blue and knuckles ached, and then we poured out into the street to discuss our mutual pleasure. I have seen very little sexualized allegorical puppetry, but after seeing *The Unlikely Birth of Istvan*, I plan to see more.

Now, where the hell am I going to find some?

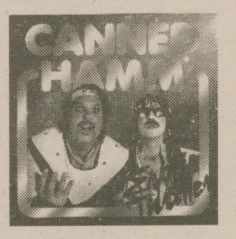
Canned fun

Canned Hamm
Erotic Thriller
Boompa Records

by Kevin Nakanishi

To paraphrase Spinal Tap, there's a fine line between clever and stupid . . . and then there's Vancouver disco duo Canned Hamm. Just look at that cover shot: Big Hamm channels a mix of *Night at the Roxbury*'s Will Ferrell with Ron Jeremy, while Little Hamm resembles a pasty-white Rick James.

These self-proclaimed "Princes of Poptronica" get right to the point on "Boyz Nite Out." *Erotic Thriller* is over-the-top, sex-obsessed disco that will either make you laugh or cry.



The music is all mirror-ball synthesizers, drum machines and vocoders, and the Hamms deliver lines like "I held the stick that broke the piñata / But it wasn't candy coming down atcha" in moronic squawks or telephone-stalker growls.

Humourless listeners will hate this album, but anyone who has laughed at the armadillo in Nigel Tufnel's trousers will find these guys entertaining. They might wear makeup and bogus dreadlock extensions, and obsess over non-gender-specific sex, but the bravest thing they do involves their lyrics.

If you want to hear someone rhyme "rigamorale" with "fruity punch bowl," *Erotic Thriller* just might float your boat.

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Dread takes control

Reggae legend Mikey Dread comes our way next week

Who: Mikey Dread and the Dread at the Controls Band
Where: Central Bar and Grill
When: Feb. 11
How Much: $17 in advance at Lyle's Place, A&B Sound, The Reef, and the Caribbean Village Bakery

by Andrew Bishop

PROVIDED PHOTO

Dread (a.k.a. Michael Campbell) has worked with seminal punk heroes The Clash, among others.

The gleam in promoter Dane Roberts' eye is unmistakable as he describes the upcoming show with Mikey Dread and the Dread at the Controls Band.

"I remember listening to Mikey as a kid. I didn't think we could get him here."

Roberts says Dread is a "gem fit" for his show, which will be Black History Month's main event. "He personifies everything that this event is about—he's not too commercial, but he's had amazing international and cross-cultural influence."

A native of Port Antonio, Jamaica, Dread (a.k.a Michael Campbell) first gained notoriety as a young DJ and audio engineer with the Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation (JBC), where he began his broadcasting career in 1976. His radio show, which became known as "Dread at the Controls," featured up-and-coming reggae and dub acts and was quickly established as the number one radio show in Jamaica. Dread was awarded Top Radio Personality of the Year in 1977–78.

He later moved to London and began recording and producing young musicians. This is where he met a youthful Joe Strummer, whose band, the Clash, began experimenting with ska and reggae rhythms—a huge milestone in the history of acceptance of Jamaican music worldwide. The reggae aspect of the Clash's albums distinguished their sound from the other punks that emerged in the 1970s, and soon after it was a must for just about every punk band to have a reggae cover song on their album.

Dread then went on to take a degree in broadcasting in London at the National Broadcasting School, where he narrated the hit reggae documentaries *Rockers Road Show* and *Deep Roots Music*. His unique multimedia approach to music production led him to Boca Raton, Fla., where he completed another degree, a bachelor of arts in international communications with magna cum laude honours.

Not wanting to limit himself to production, Dread wrote and toured extensively in the '90s, headlining reggae festivals around the world and sharing the stage with artists like Bob Dylan and Santana.

His unique international perspective and intimate knowledge of music production have often put him in conflict with the recording industry. Talking over a cell phone from Los Angeles, Calif., Dread expressed the importance of the individual artist remaining true to his ideals.

"This whole dance hall scene these days, with the X-rated DJs singing about sleeping with girls and drinking in the club—they've got nothing important to say. My music—with conscious vibes and crucial lyrics about slavery, apartheid in Africa—that's got a message. It's got staying power."

His new record label, Dread at the Controls Inc., epitomizes his desire to remain independent and in control of his own music. Mikey had few kind words for his old U.K. record label, Heartbeat, saying their monetary approach to music meant that artists were often paid less then they deserved for their work. He has re-released much of his music that was put out on Heartbeat, including the 1980s smash hit "World War III."

Additionally, Dread's sense of Rastafarian spirituality has encouraged him on his quest. "My purpose from the Creator: to spread the message of unity and one love. I've been successful at it because I've stayed true to my roots. I've already done what I came to do on this planet." He cites dub giant King Tubby as his original inspiration, saying, "He believed in me when I didn't even believe in myself."

King Tubby's inspiration is being passed on through Dread to the next generation of innovative producers and DJs. For his part, Roberts is not only excited for Dread's live show, but also for the chance to glean knowledge from Dread's eclectic and international experience as a radio DJ.

The show in Victoria will commemorate Roberts' third year as co-host of Pepperpot, a CFUV radio show featuring Caribbean and world rhythms. "On the one hand you have us, young and relatively inexperienced DJs, and then on the other side is Mikey Dread, possibly the most innovative radio DJ in the history of reggae music. It's gonna be sweet."

Proceed directly to coolness

M83
Before the Dawn Heals Us
Mute U.S.

by Adam Nelson Humphreys

M83 are French. But not, like, Canadian French—real French French.

Hailing from Paris, M83 made a name for themselves on the music blogging scene with their acclaimed second album, *Dead Cities, Red Seas and Lost Ghosts*.

This, the follow-up, sees the electro-duo parting ways and becoming an uno yet retaining the sound that made them.

Part of M83's success can be attributed to their genre-defying sound. When you hear somebody playing this music in their car, you can't label that person as easily as say, someone pumping more label-friendly indie rock or hip-hop. I guess this will lead you to believe that the person playing this music is "deeper" than the previous two options, as he or she defies easy categorization. This allows the person to feel more unique, which, as we have learned through numerous Gap commercials, is cool.

People have come to refer to M83 as electro-pop, but that moniker does little justice in describing their sound. Think synths, emotional tones, simple song structures and, yes, a song called "Teen Angst" and B-horror movie quotes that are not intended to be ironic. Think some sensitive dude in an apartment in Paris with Pro-Tools and a keyboard.

The album is quite good. If you like to defy description, pick it up and proceed to coolness. Just don't play it at parties and expect everyone to be into it.

CORRECTION

A story in last week's *Martlet* entitled "Art Ed profs show the goods" credited Melanie Law with the photo of Professor William Zuk. In fact, that photo was taken by Melanie Siebert.

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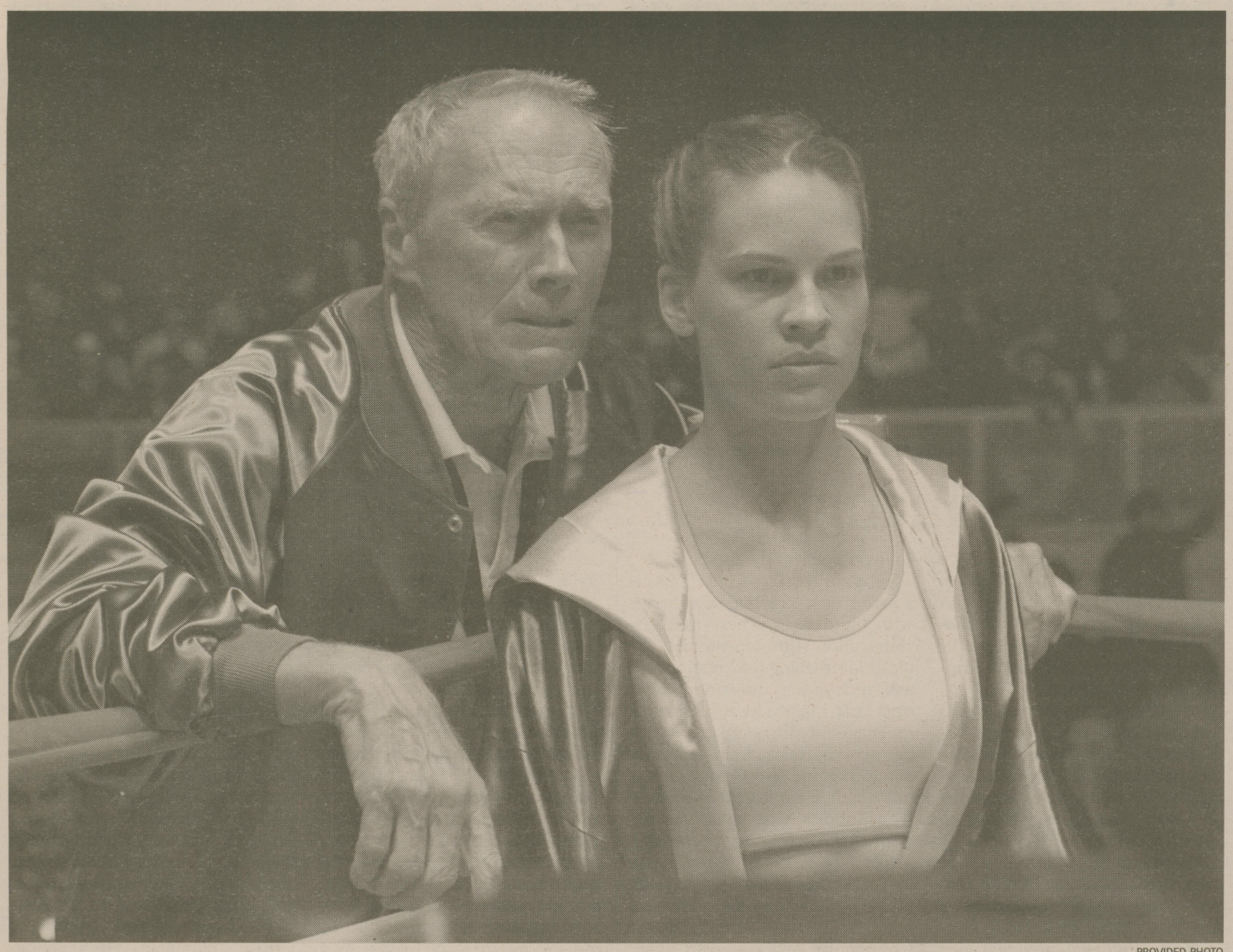


PROVIDED PHOTO

Oscar winner Hilary Swank plays a too-old boxer with dreams of winning the title in *Millon Dollar Baby*.

Eastwood's new contender

The film picked by many critics as the best of 2004 harkens back to movie classics

by Sacha Narine

Clint Eastwood's latest film is a remarkable piece of storytelling, told simply and carefully by a man who knows how to make pain compelling. Eastwood's *Mystic River* was one of the best films of 2003, and *Million Dollar Baby* is more—more of a film, more of a story, more of an experience. It is less contrived, less artificial and less manipulative.

While screenwriting instructors deride voice-over narration as the lowest form of exposition, it has once again proven vital. Morgan Freeman's rough growl adds meaning to silence in a film that is quiet and dark in both mood and aspect.

Maggie (Hilary Swank) wants to box, and she wants Franky (Eastwood) to train her. He says she's too old and too, well, female. Then he relents. She spends every night at the gym, and soon Franky is showing Maggie how to knock the sand out of a speed bag.

While the setup sounds like part of a rousing, effervescent sports film about an underdog beating the odds and rising to the top, the film casually sidesteps cliché. There was never anything to worry about. *Million Dollar Baby* is original and unpredictable. Swank's performance, with her perfect southern accent, easily compares to her Oscar-winning turn in *Boys Don't Cry*. Eastwood glides between gruff stoicism and tortured remembrance. He is the film's greatest force, an onscreen essence expanding beyond his character but at the same time enclosing it. Franky Dunn feels real.

Screenwriter Paul Haggis adapted *Million Dollar Baby* from a collection of short stories by long-time fight manager Jerry Boyd. Haggis's script weaves humour, hope and desperation into a nearly flawless work of emotional exploration.

Morgan Freeman plays Eddie, Franky's beat-up business partner and best friend. Once, when they were younger, Franky patched up Eddie's cuts between rounds. They worked together to win fights. Now they manage a gym—Franky trains fighters and Eddie keeps shop.

Early on, Franky and Eddie (Morgan Freeman) argue about what bleach to buy. (Eddie: "This kind smells better." Franky: "Bleach smells like bleach.") Later, Maggie lies in bed, eyes damp, recalling the noise of the crowds, her name in magazines, seeing the world. Eastwood shifts gears so smoothly that we are never jarred out of the moment, never shaken from our place inside the film, never excluded from the immersion of honest characters in a sadly real world.

All of the film's leads—Eastwood, Swank and Freeman—have been nominated for Academy Awards for their roles.

To see *Million Dollar Baby* is to see a film made for actors. Eastwood's style and Haggis's script share an expansive simplicity that fosters chemistry, comfort and improvisation. When Franky and Maggie begin training, even Eastwood's memorable mug vanishes as we suspend disbelief. The characters take hold because they are acted so well and because they exist in a world that suits them—one in which boxing happens on the outside and life happens on the inside.

Several critics have named *Million Dollar Baby* the best film of 2004. Its stirring simplicity and casual pacing lend the film a classical quality. Yet, it feels vaguely dated. Other 2004 films like *Finding Neverland*, *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, and *Closer* did more with their medium by exploring new visual techniques and editing styles.

Eastwood remains a traditionalist, and he succeeds entirely. *Million Dollar Baby* is not a technically revolutionary film, but rather a film that allows us to peer directly into its world without the obstruction of visual effects or rapid-fire editing. We inhabit *Million Dollar Baby* because its characters make us want to. Even in suffering, we envy the fictions of a well-told story.

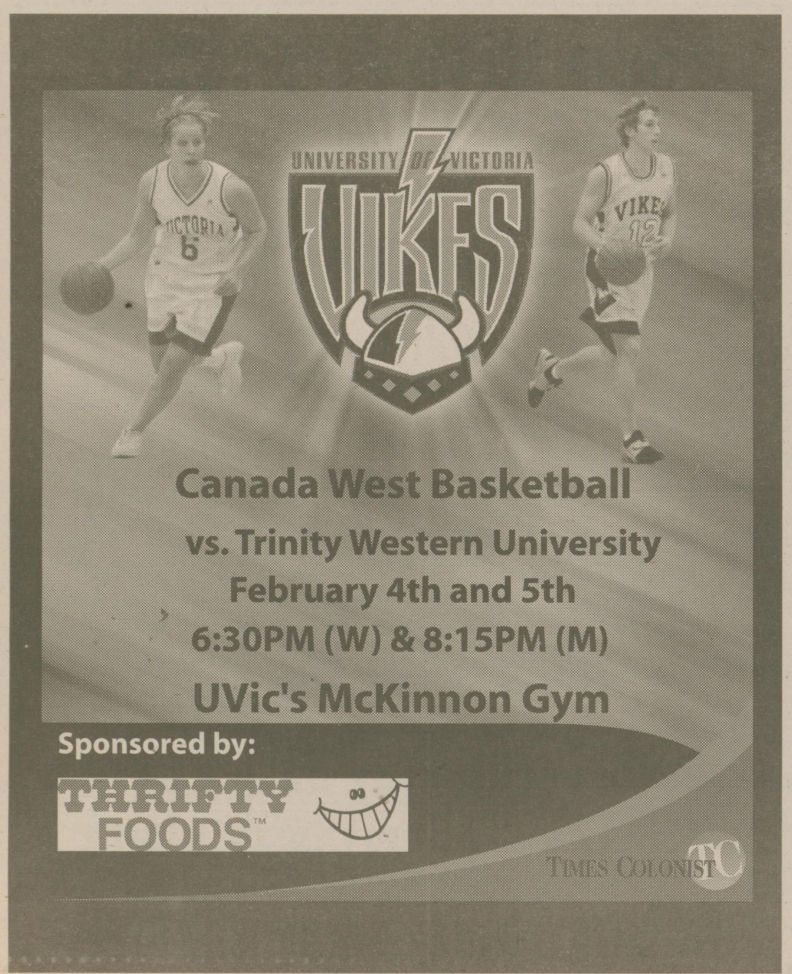
OSCAR NOMINATIONS 2005

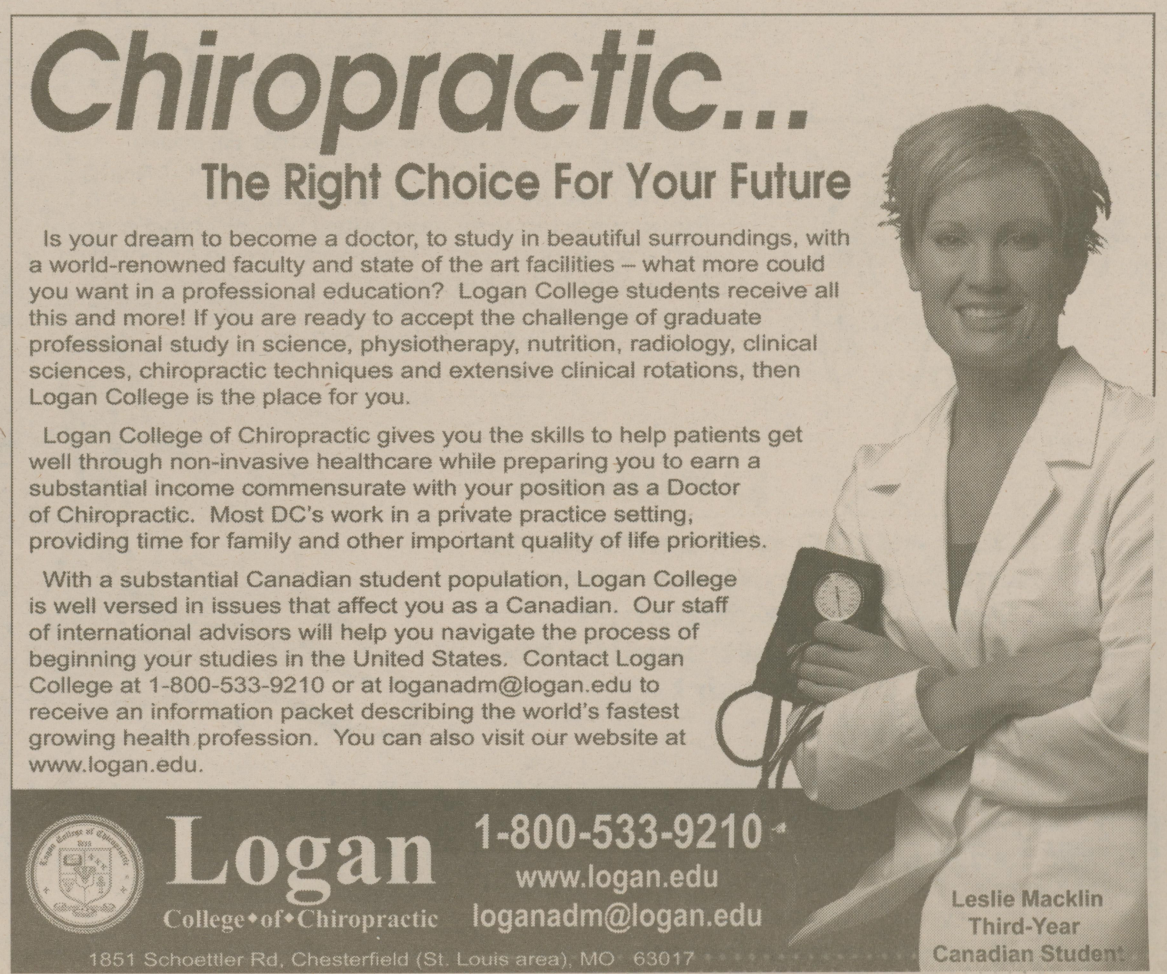
Best Picture
- The Aviator
- Finding Neverland
- Million Dollar Baby
- Sideways
- Ray

Best Actor
- Don Cheadle
- Johnny Depp
- Leonardo DiCaprio
- Clint Eastwood
- Jamie Foxx

Best Actress
- Annette Bening
- Catalina Sandino Moreno
- Imelda Staunton
- Hilary Swank
- Kate Winslet

Best Director
- Clint Eastwood
- Taylor Hackford
- Mike Leigh
- Alexander Payne
- Martin Scorsese





PROVIDED PHOTOS

An inspirational rabbit rides the bus in *Behind the Mascot*. A zombie rises in *Graveyard Alive*.

Adventures in indie cinema

What: The Victoria Independent Film and Video Festival
Where: Capitol 6, Odeon, Cinecenta, other venues
When: Feb. 4 to 13
How Much: Varies by event

by Annie Meikle

The 11th annual Victoria Independent Film and Video Festival smashes into town this Friday. This year's festival—the largest yet—promises an eclectic mix of feature length and short films, interactive panel discussions and children's events that respond to a variety of palettes and budgets.

Born Into Brothels, an Oscar-nominated documentary about children in Calcutta's red-light district, and *The Limb Salesman*, a Kafkaesque romance about a Victorian prosthetic salesman, are samples from the varied menu.

Local films loom large as films like *Lies Like Truth*, a noir murder mystery shot in Victoria, runs alongside a smattering of B.C.-made films. Along that vein, Vancouver-made *The Love Crimes of Gillian Guess* delves into the motives and personality of Canada's most notorious jurist and her highly publicized love affair.

Cinecenta will host a range of films including *Graveyard Alive: A Zombie Nurse in Love*. This Canadian zombie thriller blends wacky murder-mad nurses with top-notch cinematography.

For animation geeks, Cinecenta will also feature two evenings centred on the life and work of animator Bill Plympton. His newest film, *Hair High*, a gothic parody of the high school romance, will run on Feb. 12.

For the political film-connoisseur, the plight of the Tibetan people surfaces in *What Remains of Us*. Two young Quebecois filmmakers smuggled a videotaped message from the Dalai Lama into Tibet and recorded the reactions of Tibetans to the leader's speech. The venture was so risky that festival organizers have had to tighten security at the venue, and the film will never be available on DVD or VHS.

But great films are not the only unique part of Victoria's film fest. Panel discussions with filmmakers, intimate question-and-answer sessions following films and multimedia art installations allow audiences to further explore the creative potential of the medium.

For example, Triple Shot Talks is a series of interactive discussions with filmmakers. These free sessions allow film enthusiasts to glean filmmaking information and ask tech-laden questions. This year, Lola, the producer of the only independent film company in China, will partake. Lola will talk about the film *Two Great Sheep*, a tale about a rural Chinese village that imports two sheep in the hopes of increasing prosperity. Triple Shot Talks are free of charge and take place at the Solstice Café.

The budget-conscious will also enjoy free noon-hour films at the Community Arts Council Gallery downtown. And for an extra great deal, don't forget to check out the festival's wide selection of short films: seven dollars buys a smorgasbord of bite-sized entertainment.

The Oscar-nominated NFB short *Ryan* will be shown at the Odeon. The film follows the downward spiral of the once-famous NFB animator Ryan Larkin.

For more information on venues, schedules and ticket prices, check out www.vifvf.com or call 389-0444.

Bonding with black Vancouver

Performance Bond
By Wayde Compton
Arsenal Pulp Press

by Lena Ross

Performance Bond, the latest publication by Vancouver-born poet, DJ and black historian Wayde Compton, is unlike any book I have ever read. It is a collection of politically poignant poetry, fantastical prose, a short play, staged photos of black landmarks that may have existed, a re-imagined newspaper article, two interviews from a fictitious book of oral histories and a CD featuring a "lit-hop" performance of Compton reading "The Reinventing Wheel: Ouroboros Mix" alongside the multi-dimensional hip hop beats of Trevor Thompson.

All in all, *Performance Bond* is a self-reflexive archive of black Vancouver. Because so much of this history had been left unrecorded, Compton's synthesis is as imagined as it is real. Beginning with an excerpt from Citizenship and Immigration Canada which outlines the book's major themes—the deprivation and grant of individual freedom, the establishment of identity and the purchase of release by a guarantor from detention—*Performance Bond* goes beyond the rhetoric of bureaucratic language to spin phrases of such stunning creative depth that I was compelled to have a friend come over and listen to me read them aloud.

Compton is of mixed descent, calling himself "Halfrican" and forming for his readers an identity which begs them to examine their own split selves. His short story "Jinx" is three pages of computer text symbols with intermittent phrases that tell a story of a conversation between Jazz Itself and God, who "was bored and decided to fuck with his old school partner." The symbols force the reader to make deliberate pauses between phrases and to split words in two, causing an awareness of each individual letter and syllable. Spun with a cadence conducted cleverly from afar, Compton's poetry and prose is enigmatically mesmerizing, reminiscent of the sly pace and lucid rhythm of Leonard Cohen.

A wizard with words, Compton takes the medium through which he communicates his message and turns it upside-down. With a cascade of letters, images, words and sounds which struck every creative chord in my mind, *Performance Bond* is an unparalleled achievement which forces its reader to acknowledge the lack of art and literature by black and "Halfrican" British Columbians. His acute description of the African diaspora in a place which caters to so many other ethnic minorities is refreshing in its honesty: "this inlet seems no more mine than yours / or the indians who sell us salmon in the strip bars / tug boats tug at the truth of this / waking snakes of rainbow oil."

With his CD reading of such phrases as "The words of the prophets are written in graf. / . . . Every ear shall here. Every eye shall sea. / We ain't maintaining, yet we be / defamiliar," I fell under Compton's spell.

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Lumsden challenges American stereotypes

Canadian running-back fights national, racial barriers

by Chris Black, *The Silhouette*

HAMILTON (CUP) — So, all of North America knows now that football player Jesse Lumsden is a legit pro prospect.

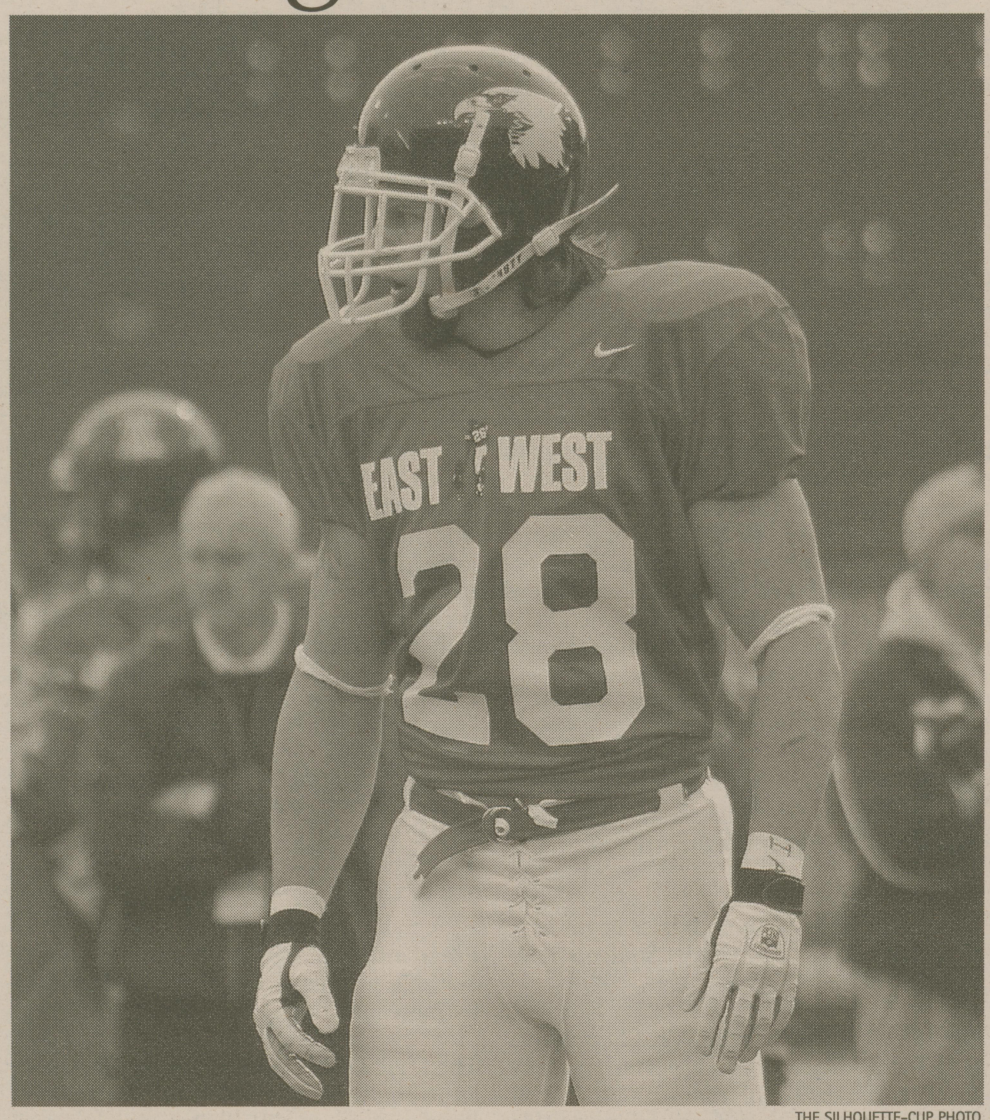
Scouts and coaches admittedly were caught off guard by his performance at the recent East West Shrine game. In fact, Colin Lindsay at the Great Blue North Draft Report said in his recap of the week: "The most intriguing back in San Francisco was Jesse Lumsden of McMaster, one of two players from Canadian universities. Lumsden showed excellent patience and vision, along with exceptional upfield acceleration once he found the seam."

Lindsay and his staff had Lumsden rated as the second-best performer out of 27 skill position players (behind only Louisville quarterback Stefan Lefors, who threw three touchdown passes) and the seventh-best out of 51 total offensive players.

But what many people may not know about Lumsden's week in San Francisco is that he's fighting an uphill battle in more than one respect. While his efforts to rise above the stereotypes of a Canadian football player are well documented, he's also trying to break racial prejudices as well.

A quick look at NCAA and NFL rosters the past couple seasons shows some tough numbers for Lumsden to try and beat. In 2003, 98 per cent of running backs were minorities. In 2004, there were 117 schools in Division I-A football, and two had a white starting running back.

A current CIS player who is a minority has friends attending schools in the United States and said that he thinks the cold shoulder Lumsden received in San Francisco was about more than just coming from Canada.



THE SILHOUETTE–CUP PHOTO

Lumsden at the Shrine game.

"Those guys are fighting for their livelihood down there, and to them, Jesse is an anomaly," the player said. "A white guy trying to break through at running back or wide receiver is trying to break moulds that they have for people. It's a lot like black quarterbacks a few years back.

"I just wonder if he was an offensive lineman instead who was a physical freak, like six-foot-seven, 320 pounds, just made for the position the same way Jesse is made for running back, would there be the same type of controversy? I don't think so because seeing a white guy on the offensive line isn't so different."

Back in September 2004, Orlando Sentinel writers Chris Harry and Charles Robinson put together an extensive feature looking at the dominance of minorities at the running back position. The insightful piece looked at everything from genetics to youth environment to prejudicial scouts and coaches.

Tony Dungy, head coach of the Indianapolis Colts, told the writers that he believes younger players are "funnelled" to positions based on race.

"You've got guys in high school, white players, who are discouraged from being wide receivers, defensive backs or running backs. I think we have that," Dungy said. "It's 'This position is a black position or white position.' I definitely believe they are channelled early on."

Doug Williams, the first black quarterback to play in a Super Bowl back in 1988, told the Sentinel that colour is just a by-product of the most important factor for a running back—speed.

"A lot of it boils down to athletic ability," Williams said. "If you have a kid who's been productive who's a black running back and he's running a 4.8 [in the 40-yard dash], and you have a white kid who's been productive who's running a 4.5, make no mistake, the 4.5 is going to be the kid getting the opportunity."

However, the player that spoke to the Silhouette said that the white kid Williams mentions who's running the 4.5 usually won't last at running back by the time his college career is done.

"You look at a guy Jesse's size with his speed, if he would have went down south, they would have converted him to linebacker or safety in his freshman year," the player said.

Pats try for dynasty at Super Bowl

But Eagles may prove to be challenging competitor

by Matthew Wilson

The wait for Super Bowl XXXIX is over, and a legendary battle looms ahead.

The defending Super Bowl champion New England Patriots take on the Philadelphia Eagles in Jacksonville Sunday in a match-up that could go either way.

There is no doubt that New England is the favorite to win. Not only are they the defending champions, but the Pats are building a dynasty, aiming for a third Super Bowl victory in four years.

Not an unrealistic goal for a team who's starting quarterback Tom Brady has a career playoff record of 8–0 and was the 2004 Super Bowl MVP. Brady is also praised for his ability to read defences well and exploit weaknesses.

The Pats will look to their strong and explosive running back Corey Dillon to capitalize on the Eagles' defensive weakness against the run.

Also look for Brady to spread the ball to all his wide receivers—Devon Branch, David Givens and Troy Brown. Brady is known to see the whole field and rarely misses an opportunity.

As for defence, the Patriots are

solid. Rated ninth in the league throughout the season, the New England defence was the story of the AFC Championship. Though they're missing both starting cornerbacks, it was speculated the Pats defence would collapse against Pittsburgh, but they did nothing of the sort.

As far as the Philadelphia Eagles are concerned, this is the shot they've been waiting ever so anxiously for. Missing the last three opportunities with three consecutive NFC Championship losses, the Eagles are hungry for a victory on Sunday.

If Terrell Owens is 100 per cent healthy, we'll see a revamped and reloaded Eagles offence. Though they have succeeded without Owens, he may provide the added boost Philly needs to beat the Pats defence.

Eagles QB Donovan McNabb has never played as confident in his whole career than he has in the 2005 Playoffs. He is looking to silence all doubters in his first Super Bowl appearance.

The Eagles will utilize every offensive weapon they have, especially running back Brian Westbrook for his ability to return punts and captain the running game.

The Eagles' defence is equally as capable as New England's, rated 10th throughout the season. But they are not as experienced in big games. The Eagles defence regularly uses the blitz to try and shake up the offence.

Look to Philly to go after Brady right off the bat. If the Eagles' defence can defend well against the run, which they are not known to do, it will be an interesting game.

When all the speculation is through, it all comes down to defence.

Gyaki scores big for Canada

Canadian National Under-20 soccer team qualifies for World Cup in Netherlands

by Gavin Day

In San Pedro Sula, Honduras, Canada's under-20 soccer team went unbeaten in three games to qualify for the FIFA World Youth Soccer Tournament, to be held this summer in the Netherlands. Canada finished first in their group, Group "B," conceding only one goal in the process.

Canada's first game was against regional powerhouse Mexico last Wednesday. Ryan Gyaki scored both goals in a 2–1 victory. Their next game on Friday was a 1–0 victory over host Catrachos of Honduras. Gyaki was the lone scorer of the game. This second win guaranteed Canada would finish in one of the top two spots, which results in automatic qualification to the FIFA Championship.

Canada's final game this past Sunday was against Jamaica, who had already been eliminated. Surprise, surprise—Ryan Gyaki was the goal scorer in yet another 1–0 victory for Canada.

The other two spots up for grabs in the Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association region will be determined in another tournament held in Carson, Calif.

Ryan Gyaki is a 19-year-old from Calgary, Alta. He currently plays for the Reserve Squad of Sheffield United of the Coca Cola Championship, one level below the English Premier League. Gyaki is playing extremely well considering he is just getting over a serious abdomen injury.

While the Canadian senior men's team has not advanced, this result bodes well for the future of Canadian soccer.

In the previous World Youth Championship in 2003, Canada advanced all the way to the quarter-finals where they lost to Spain in extra-time. The way this team has played, another successful run at this tournament is certainly not out of the question.

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When powder meets pavement

by Ford Walker

Currently in the grips of one of the mildest winter in years, many powder junkies are finding themselves sitting inside and praying to the weather-channel gods. What is a boarder to do? Some of you smug bastards out there might be saying, "Well, why don't you just go skateboarding?" Skateboarding, however, is nothing like laying into a fresh line of powder. That is, until recently.

There have been many innovations in the past 10 years trying to make a skateboard that acts like a snowboard. The craziest one consists of a hunk of wood the size of a snowboard and nine wheels squeezed together in an arc over each truck. First generation snowskateboards (not to be confused with snowskates) all weighed about 10 kilos and were impossible to skate on. Complete junk. I even used to own one called a Freebord—I used it five times before realizing I spent $200 on a piece of shit.

Freebording has come a very long way in the past seven years, though. The company has redesigned the board and trucks, making it significantly lighter, and there is a new wheel attached to the truck, which can rotate 360 degrees.

According to the Freebord website, "This simulates the P-tex base on your snowboard, allowing you to drift a slide or float into a fakie."

Skating isn't nearly as easy as it is on a regular skate, so don't throw out your deck yet. Freebords are now available in Canada and have been getting rave reviews.

The question that must be asked, though, is whether it performs anything like a snowboard. While the critics at Australian Surf magazine have said "it is the closest thing you'll get to snowboarding while on pavement," the truth is that a street is nothing like the slopes.

For starters, there is no chairlift to take you back to the top of the hill, and your average suburban street is only about six metres wide. The videos on the website show it all. While it is true that the Freebord carves somewhat like a snowboard, there is only so much carving you can do on a paved hill. Overall, it is a poor substitute for the real thing.

Also, without actually strapping into the board, your heel edge turns will never be as snappy as on an actual snowboard. Caution is recommended if you're planning on purchasing one of these contraptions.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Thanks to falling-boy, here's a good look at a Freebord.

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Become a Volunteer this New Year!!
Give something back to your community this New Year, while having a great time doing it. Here at Recreation Intergration Victoria we facilitate active lifestyles for people with disabilities in recreational settings. By donating only 1-2 hours per week you can take advantage of an opportunity that has the potential to enrich both your life and the life of someone else! To get involved or for more information, please call Bryanna at 477-6314.

ON CAMPUS

Students, Staff & Community Members! Pro-Choice Panel Discussion: "Defining Choice: Revisiting the Connection between Women's rights & Abortion" 7-9pm. David Strong Building - C103. Wheelchair accessible & visual language interpreter available.

UVSS AGM Vote for Undergraduate Students. Feb. 10th @ Cinecenta Bring Student ID. Vote to maintain the UVSS's pro-choice policies. Don't let women's bodies be the battleground! Brought to you by Students Protecting Choice (SPC).

AIESEC & CAREER SERVICES present: CAREER FAIR 2005, which will take place in the SUB on Feb. 9 & 10 from 10:00 AM - 3:30 PM. Fifty organizations from different fields are expected. Open to all students & recent grads of UVic, Camosun, Royal Roads & Malaspina who are looking for employment (including summer jobs) or post-graduate study programs. Prior to the event, Career Services will be holding FREE "Preparing for the Career Fair" sessions (Feb 3,7&8). For a complete list of exhibitors and prep session times, please visit www.uviccareerfair.com.

Thurs., Feb.10 - Taku Wilderness Slideshow. Join Nola Poirier of the Transboundary Watershed Alliance and members of the Wilderness Committee for a presentation about the threats posed by the proposed Tulsequah mining road in the largest pristine valley off North America's Pacific Coast. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Hickman Building rm 116, UVic. Free. Info call 388-9292

Jung Society lecture: Chris Bullock, Ph.D. The Night Snow Journey: Jungian Resonances in James Joyce's The Dead. Fri., Feb. 4: 7:30 pm, David Strong Building, C116. Students and members, $10; non-members, $15. Phone 370-6001.

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Accepting donations to raise money for TSUNAMI relief/rebuilding. Please drop off your new and OLD JUNK, such as...clothing, cd's, records, movies, sports and music equipment, kitchen and household supplies, games, books, electronics etc. Donation table will be in the SUB main hallway weekdays from Thursday Jan. 27-Feb 4 daily 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.. Garage sale dates: Feb. 3 & Feb. 7 in the Michele Pujol Rm., SUB. All money raised goes to Tsunami relief through the CANADIAN RED CROSS.

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GROOVEFEST will be held on Saturday February 12 / 05 in Vertigo in the Student Union Building. Tickets are available in advance at the SUB info booth, Kiss and Tell, and Lyle's Place. Ticket prices are $7 for the first 100 sold, $10 thereafter, and $12 at the door. For more info, contact groovefest@rise-up.net or 721-8353.

Looking for alternative sources of information on issues such as globalization, militarism, sustainable living, queer issues, racism and economics? Come to the VIPIRG library in SUB b122.

Pregnant? Explore the diversity of choices available to you. Contact holywild@uvic.ca for more info.

The UVic Pride Collective presents:
Rope Bondage 102 - Feb. 28 at 7:30p.m.
Partner required. $15 dollars a pair. Email UVic Pride at uvicpride@uvss.uvic.ca for further informatrion or to register.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUNDRAISER SWAP N' SHOP
Saturday, feb. 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Ecole Victor Brodeur, 2780 Richmond Rd. FREE ADMISSION. We are looking for members of the community interested in selling new/used items, crafts or collectibles. table rentals are available for $10 each. To reserve a table please call Helene at 388-4524 no later than feb. 8, 2005 3:00 p.m. This is a fundraiser for the volleyball team's trip to Cuba. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

Injured at the One Lounge by a Bouncer?
Has a One lounge bouncer ever used unwarranted or excessive force on you? I am a law student who was injured by unnecessary use of a "wrist-lock" in Dec. and am seeking justice. If this has happened to you or a friend, please contact me as it will greatly help the success of the action. Any award granted by the courts will go to a local charity that fights against violence. Please help, Rob. rshirkey@uvic.ca

Attention Graduating Students: The Grad Class Executive needs your input for the Legacy Project! Email your submissions to legacy@fun-play-net

The MFRC'S 5th Annual Father and Daughter Sweet Heart Dance is a fabulous way to spend some special time with your daughter! Saturday February 19, 2005, 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.. Colwood pacific Activity Centre. $10 per father (daughters attend for free). 363-2640 for more info.

Join the UVic Chess Club
Come and learn to play chess or improve your game. Club meets every Tuesday evening from 6:30-10 in the HSD building room A260. Contact dejamer@hotmail.com for more info. and put "chess" in subject box.

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HEY YOU! On Saturday night in Gordon head, you opened your mouth and said "play more Michael Jackson". You are the reason parties suck.

Sat 22, Jan. 2005, 2:30 p.m.: Us, heading to Victoria on the #70 bus. Your English book and my audio text initiated a conversation about school. Care to talk more?
misterstaal@gmail.com

Hey @, Welcome back from Coastal! VP ICX: keep on hopping and remember your not available, the trainee: bring a teddybear next time for cuddling, the paparazzi: I want you to burn all the videos! Merritt: what a cutie ;), Menso: go back to VAN, your lover misses you! VP Burger: there's about twenty pictures of you sleeping :P AND to the doctor: I promise I wont scare away the newbies! @VIC: muah! I know I'm crazy...but tell me u still love me :(*blushes*

Islandgirl—A toast to 20! Love, Ernie, Cher, Raise a little Hell, Skippy and your wife.

I can be better, I am better than I was. You are still the best and you deserve better than I can ever hope to give. But I can only hope that you will see that I will never stop loving you.

Taylor, if you step on my testicles one more time—I'm leaving you.

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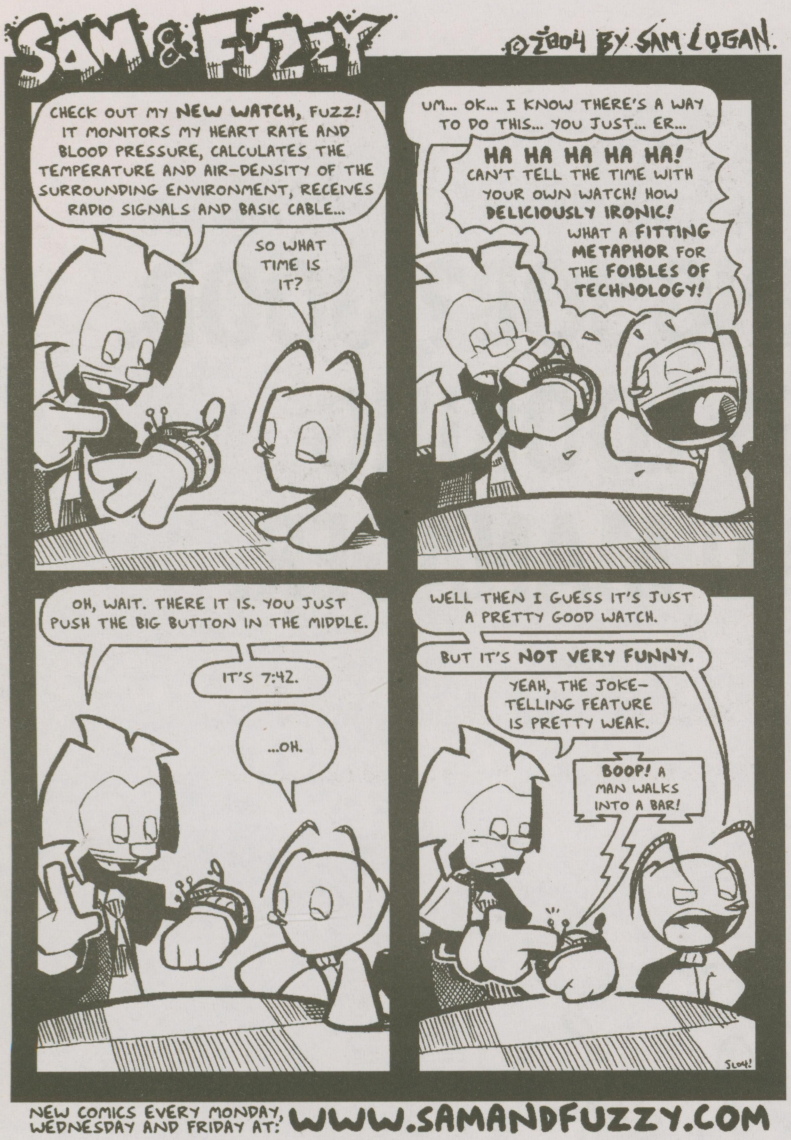

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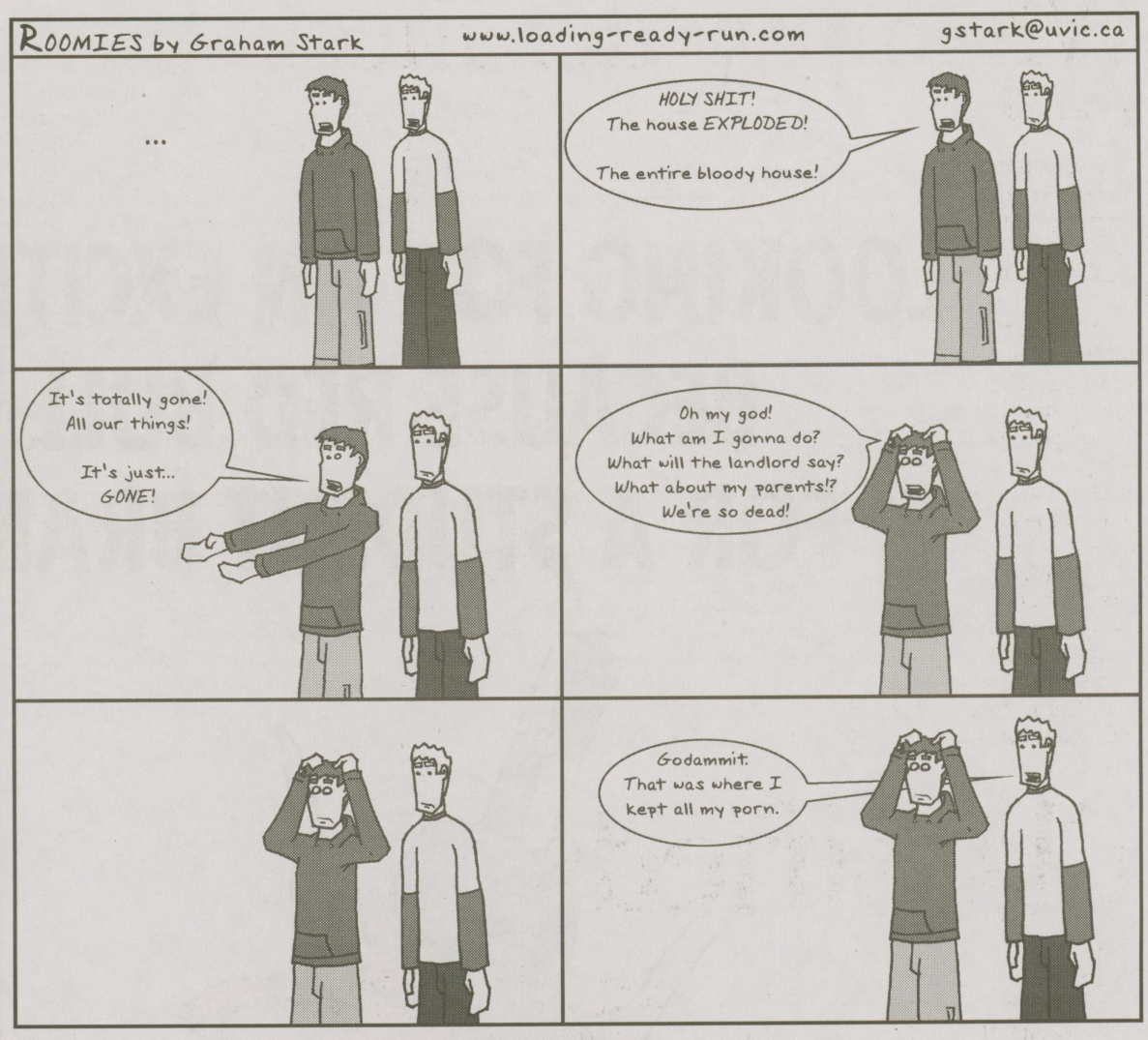

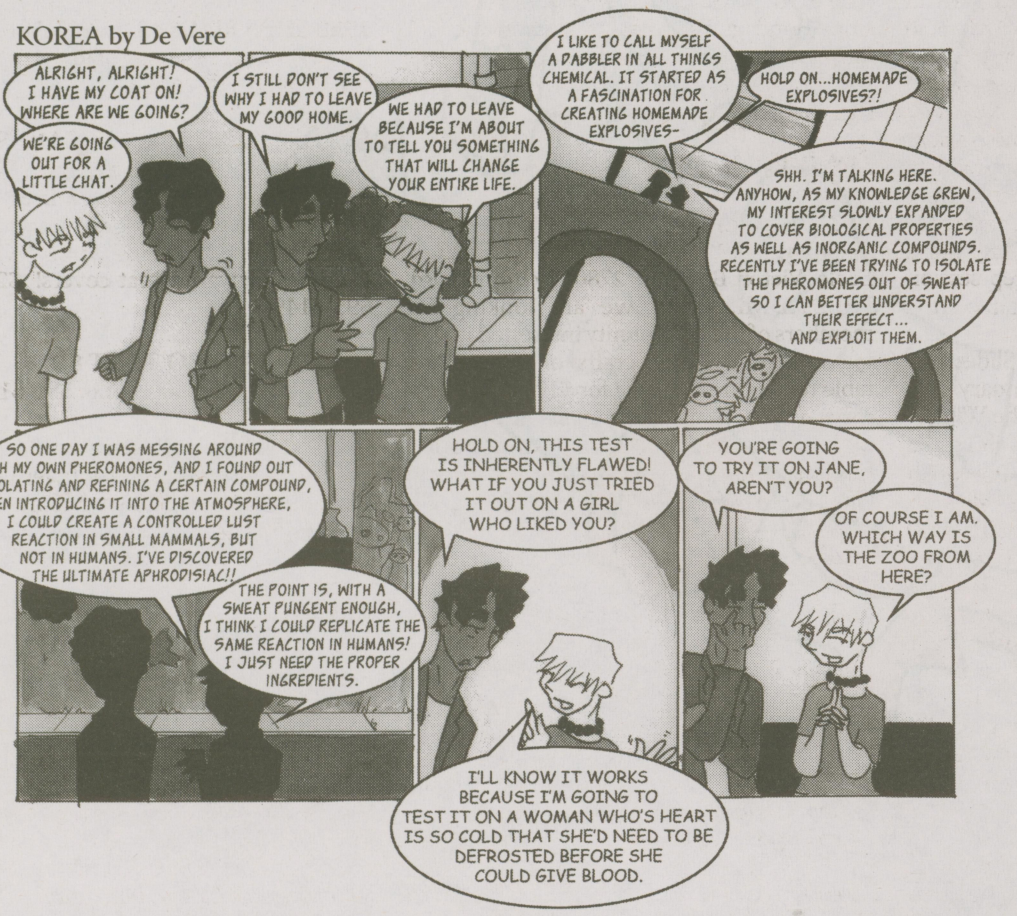

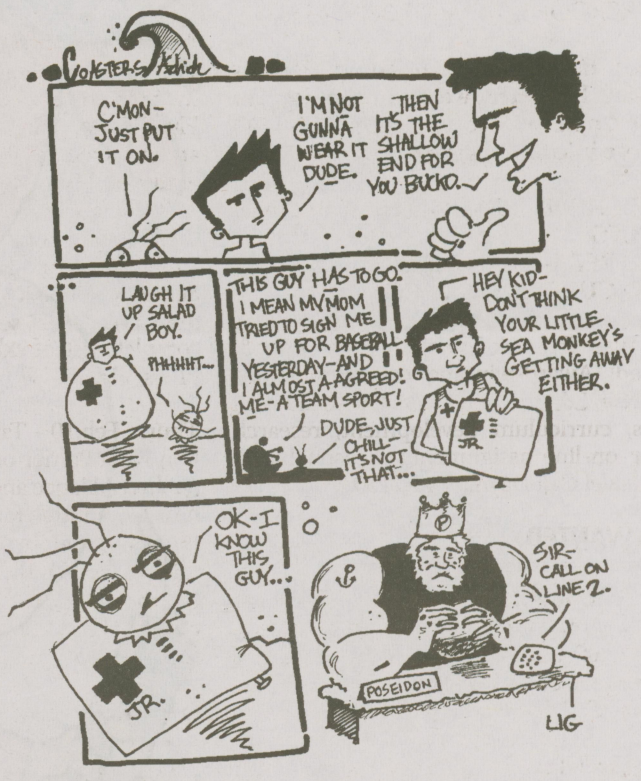

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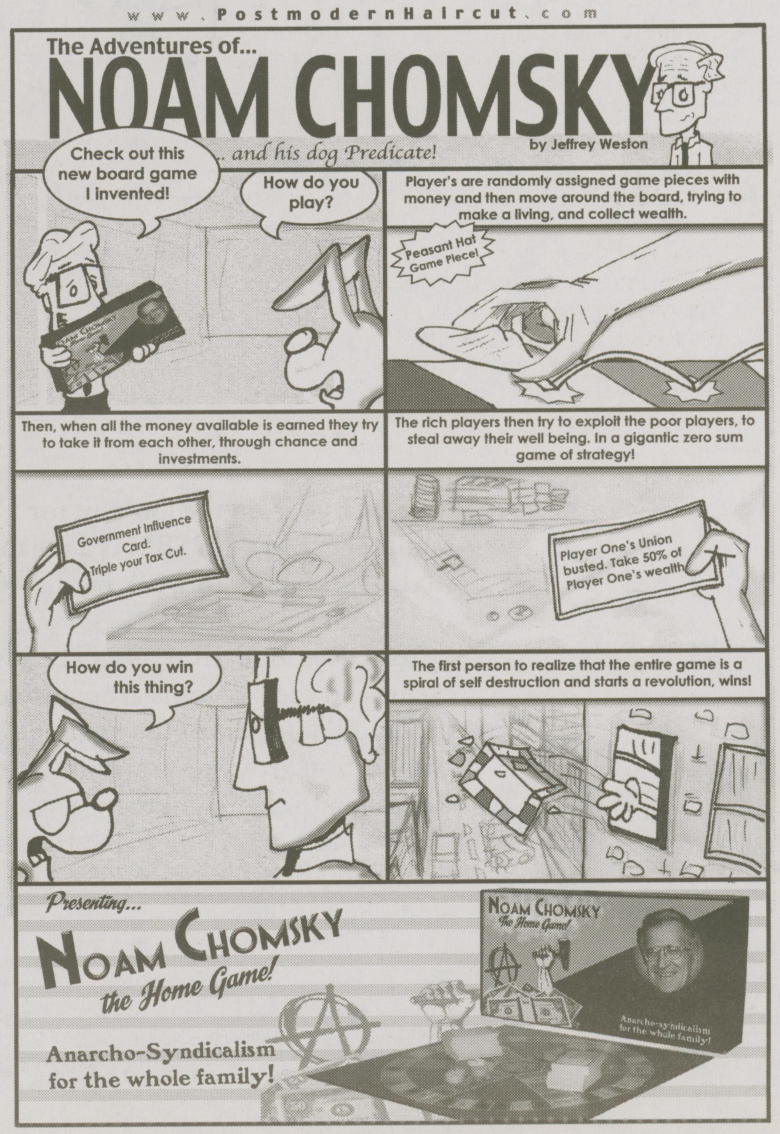

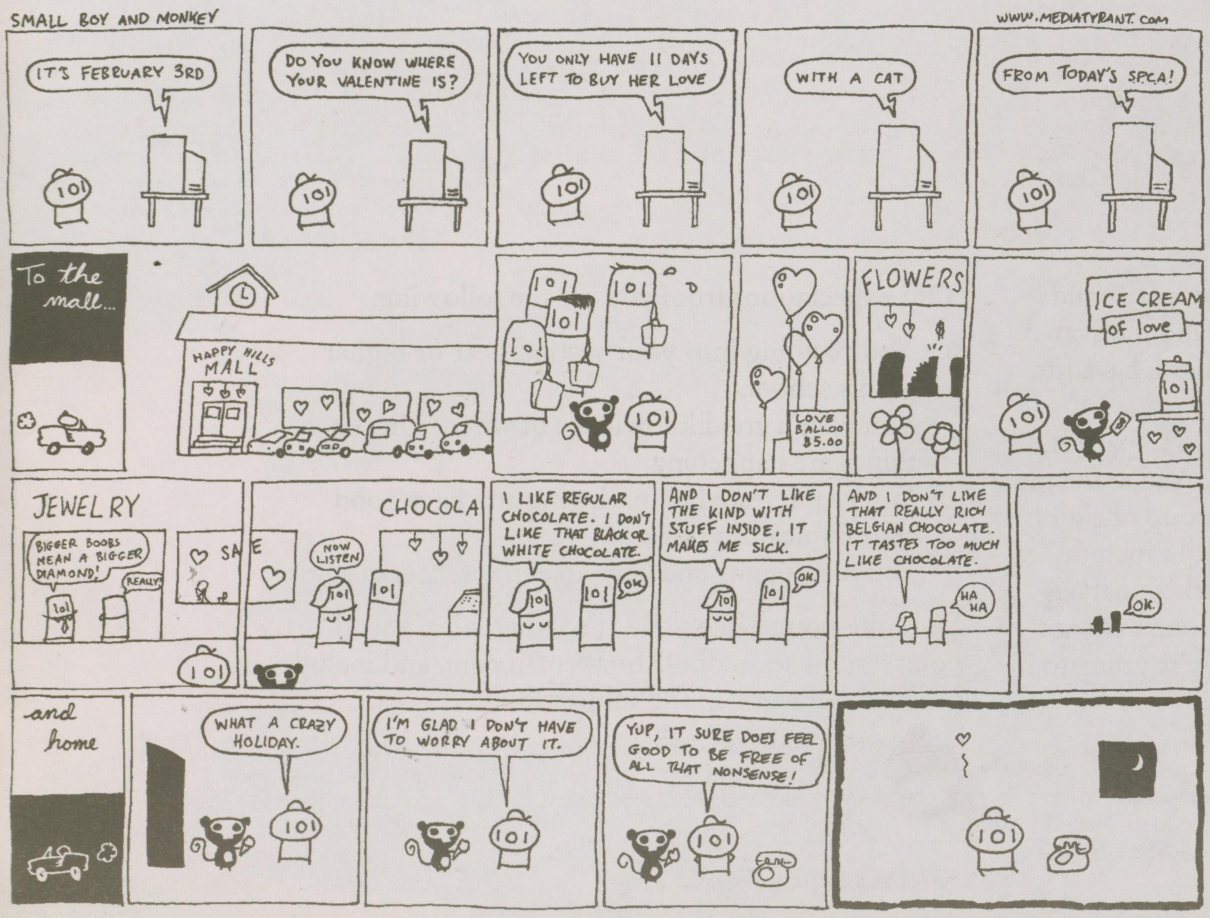

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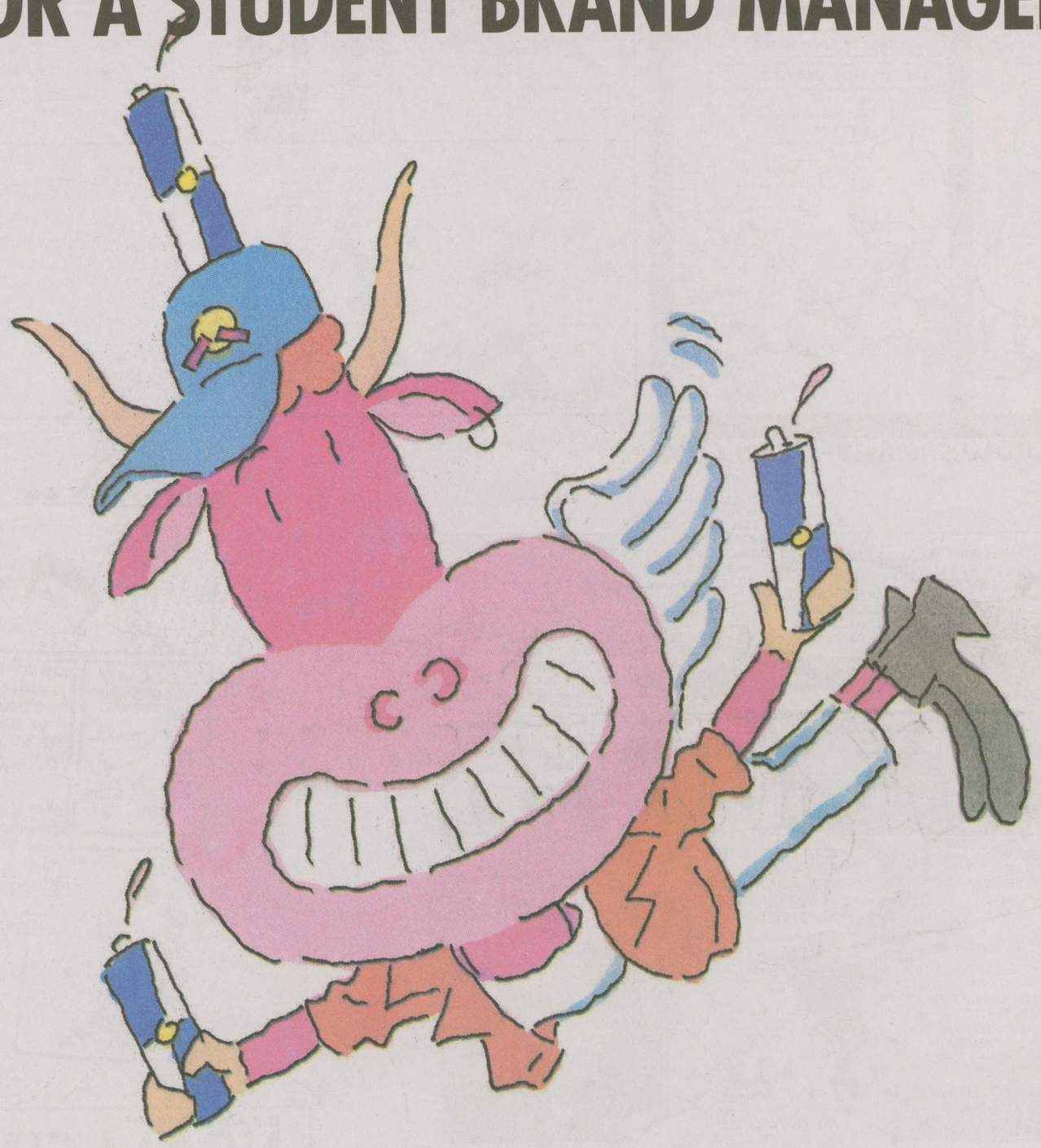

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2. **APPROVAL OF CHAIR**
3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
   a. **Agenda of 05/02/10 AGM**
4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**
   a. **Minutes of 03/10/16 AGM**
   b. **Minutes of 04/02/05 SAGM**
   c. **Minutes of 05/02/10 AGM**
5. **SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS**

Motion 04/10/21:01
BIRT Board of Directors Policy, Conflict of Interest 2d be repealed and replaced with:

> If Directors apply for a Workstudy position within the operations of the Society, they shall resign from the Board or their resignation shall be considered to have been delivered on the closing date of applications. Exempt are those Workstudy positions within the operations of the Vancouver Island Public Research Group (VIPIRG), the Radio Society (CFUV-FM), the Martlet, the Women's Centre, **the Native Students' Union, the Pride Collective, the Society for Students' with a Disability, and the Students' of Colour Collective.**

Motion 05/02/10:02
Whereas this policy indiscriminately opposes law on a contentious issue which deserves open dialogue; and
Whereas this policy holds great potential for suppressing students' right to free speech; and
Whereas this policy is a poor example for future policies that may deal with law; therefore
BIRT Gender Policy #2 from the UVSS Issues Policy stating, "The Society opposes the implementation of any new abortion law" be repealed.

Motion 05/02/10:03
Whereas such policies introduce pro-abortion language into student policy, and so imply that the Society supports abortion; and
Whereas such policies marginalize a great number of the Society's members who cannot support abortion as a matter of conscience or religious faith; therefore
BIRT Gender Policy #3 from the UVSS Issues Policy be amended to remove "The Society supports the fundamental right of all women to control their bodies" and "The Society supports freedom of choice in the matter of abortion."

Motion 05/02/10:04
BIRT the UVSS policy on anti-racism be amended to read (text that has been struck through will be deleted and text that has been underlined will be added):

ANTI-RACISM

Strikout is current policy to be repealed , underlined is new policy to be adopted.

Preamble

~~The Society recognizes racism as a form of discrimination that robs society of the full participation of its members. Further, the Society supports an environment that protects and promotes the dignity, worth, and human rights of every person and supports mutual respect and cooperation between individuals. The Society is committed to supporting an environment free from intentional or unintentional ethnocultural or religious discrimination for all society members and employees. Furthermore, the Society acknowledges the challenge of becoming responsive to the needs of a pluralistic society, and:~~

~~1 Affirms that the racial, ethno-cultural, linguistic and religious diversity of its students and staff is a source of enrichment and strength for the Society and the University at large. It is through the celebration of diversity and the recognition of similarities that understanding and meaning are built.~~

~~2 Recognizes that people are the sum of their experiences, and therefore, as an educational institution, the Society has a special responsibility to develop positive values, attitudes, knowledge and practices by developing a framework which will promote and support equity, justice and access to all.~~

~~3 Encourages interpersonal relations that aspire to the realization of harmony, mutual respect and understanding.~~

~~4 Acknowledges that racial, ethno-cultural, linguistic and religious groups may encounter barriers to full participation in education and employment opportunities. The district is committed to eliminate these barriers.~~

The Society recognizes racism is not simply a form of discrimination that robs members of full participation in the society. Racism is contingent on the establishment and assertion of a centre based on the implicit code of whiteness, which is embedded with patriarchal, heterosexist and capitalist constructions of gender, sexual orientation and ability. The university is reflective of these constructions. Therefore, the Society must be committed to a genuine and critical anti-racism strategy that shifts the focus and onus away from people of colour and Aboriginal people and moves towards focus on the centre.

The Society supports an environment that protects and promotes the dignity, worth, and human rights of every person and supports mutual respect and cooperation between individuals.

The Society is committed to supporting an environment free from intentional or unintentional racism for all society members and employees.

Furthermore, the Society acknowledges the need to be anti-racist and;

1 Recognizes that as an educational institution, the Society has a special responsibility to develop positive values, attitudes, knowledge and practices by developing a framework which will promote and support equity, justice and access to all.

2 Encourages mutually respectful relations that promote anti-racist understanding.

3 Acknowledges that people encounter barriers to full participation in education and employment opportunities due to racialization, cultural/linguistic domination, gender, sexual orientation and disabilities. The Society is committed to eliminating these barriers.

Mandate

~~This policy sets the Society position on the issue of racial discrimination.~~ This policy sets the Society's position on the issue of racism. The Society is committed to:

~~1 Promoting the integration of race relations issues into the fabric of the Society and their inclusion as part of the agenda of all committees and activities. Race relation issues are not to be trivialized or marginalized.~~

1 Promoting the integration of issues of racism into the fabric of the Society and their inclusion as part of the agenda of all committees and activities. Racism issues are not to be trivialized or marginalized.

~~2 Cultivating understanding and a mutual acceptance of cultural diversity among Board of Directors, Members at Large, Staff, and all persons or groups utilizing Society resources and/or facilities. The University Equity Office should implement more effective policies to ensure that people of colour and first nations people are given a fair and equitable opportunity for employment.~~

2 Cultivating understanding and mutual acceptance of cultural diversity among Board of Directors, Members at Large, Staff and all persons or groups utilizing Society resources and/or facilities. Further, to increase awareness of its membership on issues of racism through campaigns and literature the University of Victoria Equity & Human Rights Office should implement more effective polices to ensure that people of colour and Aboriginal people are given a fair and equitable opportunity for employment.

~~3 Eliminating discrimination based on colour, nationality, ethnic origin, cultural background, or religious belief among students and staff.~~

3 Eliminating discrimination based on racialization, cultural/linguistic domination, gender, sexual orientation and disabilities among students and staff.

4 Taking into account the anticipated impact on the diverse community when designing new programs, policies, and services.

5 Cultivating enhanced understanding and mutual acceptance of cultural diversity among employees and the people we serve. Further, to increase awareness of its membership on issues of racism through campaigns and literature.

~~6 Providing unlearning racism workshops for each newly elected Board of Director and interested Students at Large.~~

6 Providing Privilege Workshops annually for the Board of Directors and interested Students At Large. The workshops shall be facilitated by Women's Centre, Pride Collective, ACCESS UVIC, Students of Colour Collective, Native Students Union or outside facilitators.

7 Working with the staff of the Society to ensure that future collective agreements and employment practices reflect the Society's commitment to a proactive anti-racism policy. The Society recognizes the systemic underrepresentation of people of colour and Aboriginal people within the workforce and will work towards correcting this inequity within the Student Union Building.

8 Lobbying the University Administration, Senate, and Board of Governors to develop policy and procedures to effectively deal with racism that incorporates the following:

a Ongoing review and evaluation of university curriculum, programs, policies, legislation, services, and methods of service delivery with a view to removing inequities and biases.

b Ensure that fairness and equity in operations and systems for everyone including appropriate class assignments, non-selective registration, equitable and respectful treatment of students, and equitable employment practices. Lobby the University of Victoria ~~Equity Office~~ Equity & Human Rights Office to implement more effective policies to ensure that people of colour and Aboriginal people are given a fair and equitable opportunity for employment.

c With emphasis on the areas of curriculum, staff development, personnel practices, conduct, and climate, that the University Administration promotes the integration of race relations issues into the fabric of the system and their inclusion as part of the agenda of all committees and activities. Race relation issues are not to be trivialized or marginalized.

d With respect to curriculum:

i Recognize that the curriculum must present a global view of society which includes the experiences and achievements of all cultural groups. Varied perspectives must be included to enable all students to develop pride in their own heritage and appreciation of the cultural heritages of others.
ii Review and monitor new and existing curricula, curricular materials and learning resources for racism, negative cultural bias and Eurocentric bias.
iii Develop and implement new inclusive curricula designed to eliminate racism and increase cross-cultural understanding.
iv Select learning resources that reflect the experiences and contributions of our diverse society.
v Provide staff and students with training, guidance and support to enhance cross-cultural understanding, respect and acceptance of all people.
vi Provide continued support of ESL/core English, transition and other language programs, where there is a need.

e Provide faculty, administration, staff, and students with training, guidance, and support to enhance cross-cultural understanding, mutual respect, ~~unlearning racism~~, addressing privilege, and acceptance of others cultural diversity.

f Recognize and value the importance of first language(s) and prior educational experiences of students. Support the development and implementation of additional language programs.

g Establishment of a race relations office with a race relations officer and appropriate counseling services for people of colour and Aboriginal people.

h Incorporate anti-racism workshops within all orientation programs for students, faculty, and staff.

Definitions

Aboriginal: The original inhabitants, or Indigenous peoples, of Canada and their descendants. Aboriginal include status, non-status, Métis and Inuit.

Bias: A personally held belief or view of the world, a given situation, or individuals or groups. A bias against or towards members of a particular ethno-cultural, religious, or linguistic group can be expressed through speech, nonverbal behavior, and written and other materials.

Curriculum: The term is used here inclusively to mean both the formal curriculum, i.e. the stipulated practices and procedures governing the delivery of education, as well as the informal curriculum, i.e. the unwritten practices and procedures that influence student activities, behaviors, perceptions and outcomes.

Discrimination: The practice or act of making distinctions between people based on such characteristics as ethnicity, nationality, language, faith, gender, disability, or sexual orientation, which leads to the inequitable treatment of individuals or groups. There are two types of discrimination - direct and systemic

Direct discrimination is an overt action, taken on the basis of an individual's or group's response to characteristics of culture, ethnicity, nationality, language, faith, gender, disability, or sexual orientation is meant to bring about the inequitable treatment of individuals or groups that have one ore several of these characteristics.

Systemic discrimination is differential treatment through seemingly neutral policies or practices that are reinforced by institutional structures and power and that result in the inequitable treatment of members of particular groups. Systemic discrimination practices are those that have an adverse on one group and are not clearly related to job performance or job requirements.

Dominant/Majority Group: The group of people in a given society that is largest in number or that successfully shapes or controls other groups through social, economic, cultural, political, or religious power. In Canada, the dominant group is composed of White, English-speaking, middle-to-upper income, Christian Canadians.

Ethnic Group: A community maintained by a shared heritage, culture, language, or religion; a group bound together by ties of cultural homogeneity, with a prevailing loyalty and adherence to certain beliefs, attitudes, and customs.

Ethnocentrism: A condition characterized by pre-occupation with one's own cultural or national group and belief in the superiority one's own race and culture.

Eurocentrism Exclusive or almost exclusive attention to events and peoples originating in Europe, as well as consideration of information from the perspective of White people who came to North America from Europe.

Harassment: A persistent and continuing communication of negative attitudes, beliefs, or actions toward an individual or group, with the intention of disparaging that person or group. Forms of harassment include name-calling, jokes and slurs, graffiti, insults, threats, discourteous treatment, and written and physical abuse.

Institutional Racism: Exercise of notions of racial superiority by social institutions through their policies, practices, procedures, and organizational culture and values, either consciously or unconsciously. Institutional racism results in the unequal treatment of, or discrimination against, individuals ore groups with non-dominate identities.

People of Colour: A term which applies to all people(s) who are not seen as White by the dominant culture. This would include Aboriginal, Black, Chinese, South Asian, South East Asian, Filipino, and Latin American Canadians. The term originates in the United States, and is one attempt by Black and brown people to name themselves, not as "non-whites," "minorities," "visible minorities," or "ethnics," but as people with a positive identity.

Prejudice: Prejudging individuals or groups of people based on negative and incorrect information. Prejudiced attitudes are used to rationalize unequal treatment of people, which reinforces stereotypes and prejudices.

Racism: A set of mistaken assumptions, opinions, and actions resulting from the belief that one group is inherently superior to another. Racism refers not only to social attitudes toward ethno-cultural minority groups, but also to social structures and actions that limit, exclude, discriminate against, and oppress such individuals and groups. Racism may be present in organizational and institutional structures and programs, as well as in the attitudes and behavior of individuals.

Stereotype: A false or generalized conception of a group of people that results in the unconscious or conscious categorization each member of that group, without regard for individual differences. Stereotypes are sustained by the tendency to perceive selectively only those pieces of new information that correspond to the conception.

6. **REPORTS**

   a. **Board of Directors Report**

      i. **Chairperson Report**
      ii. **Director of Finance Report**
      iii. **Director of Services Report**
      iv. **Director of Academics Report**
      v. **Director at Large and Advocacy Representative Reports**

Motion to adopt the report of the Board of Directors
BIRT the October 2004 report of the Board of Directors be adopted as presented.

7. **QUESTION PERIOD (limit 30 minutes)**

10. **OTHER BUSINESS**

11. **NOTICE OF MOTION**

12. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

BRING YOUR STUDENT ID
Free coffee, tea and snacks